

AUSTRALIAN

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World Cup in Sydney on Sunday

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE moment of truth has arrived for the 1989 Socceroos.

And the hopes of countless numbers of Australians will be riding on their success against arch-rivals New Zealand in the World Cup qualifying match at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday.

With Israel gaining a 1-0 advantage over the New Zealanders in Tel Aviv, they know they are in a life and death struggle against Australia.

Nothing less than victory would keep their hopes alive.

But Frank Arok and his men are after nothing short of victory.

It would put them on the path to qualification from Oceania, and a crack at the winner of the South American group which includes Col-

ombia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

From Tel Aviv, Arok said: "What I saw over here indicates that we have the ability to win the Oceania series."

Recently installed Australian Soccer Federation president Ian Brusasco said from Brisbane:

"The team has had the best preparation we can give them."

"I sometimes think that many people don't realise the merit of wins over outstanding club teams like Malmö."

"I am sure that Frank (Arok) and his players will do us proud on Sunday."

Mr Brusasco revealed that the ASF was seeking sponsorship to assist in having

star expatriate strikers Eddie Krncevic and Frank Farina available for the game in Tel Aviv and, hopefully, for the return game in Sydney.

He added: "New Zealand will always be difficult opponents, as success against Australia is a badge of honour."

"We want to be in Italy in June 1990 for the finals, to emulate the feat of the 1974 team in West Germany."

Mr Brusasco was assistant-manager of the 1965 team — the first-ever Australian side to play in the World Cup competition.

"It's the first World Cup campaign since I have taken over the ASF chair."

"I'll be in Sydney to cheer the Socceroos on to victory," he said.

The ASF has priced the tickets to make them within reach of as many patrons as possible.

Adult prices are \$15 for each game — New Zealand on Sunday and Israel on April 16.

This week patrons can purchase a ticket to both games at a reduced price of \$25.

Single match entry is \$5 for both pensioners and children.

It is believed that FIFA regulations require World Cup games to be played on stadia that have complete seating facilities — a requirement that is well met by the \$62 million Sydney Football Stadium.



An incident from the 1988 Olympic qualifier in Adelaide when Israel defeated New Zealand 2-0. The All Whites were also beaten in Tel Aviv last Sunday. Unless they win against the Socceroos on Sunday, it will be curtains for them in the World Cup.



ALAN DAVIDSON



CHARLIE YANKOS

KIDS! FREE WORLD CUP TICKET

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND
Sydney Football Stadium 3pm Sunday
— See page 5 inside

Against the All Whites:

Arok the perfectionist aims for his 38th win

BY LOU GAUTIER

AS a coach Frank Arok is a perfectionist and a man who is totally dedicated to his profession.

And as always, the Aussie supremo has left no stone unturned to ensure the Socceroos will clear the Oceania qualifying hurdle.

Against the New Zealanders on Sunday, Arok will be at the helm of a Socceroo team for the 81st time — a record unequalled by any Australian football coach in any code.

Patience has always been the keyword for the dynamic Yugoslav-born coach of Hungarian extraction, now a naturalised Australian.

He rode the criticism heaped on his head when he first took over the Socceroos in 1984.

But he had the last laugh on those who heaped scorn on his tactics to take the Socceroos within one game of qualifying for the 1986 World Cup finals.

Last year's Bicentennial Gold Cup and Olympic Games cemented his position as one of the very best coaches in Australian football history.

The Socceroos trounced Argentina 4-1, then went on to reach the quarter-finals of the Olympic tournament, knocking Yugoslavia out 1-0 in the process before the might of eventual gold medallists, the USSR, took its toll on his depleted team.

Let's not forget, however, that the Soviets needed two penalties and a freekick to get the better of Australia, whose three goals were only conceded on set plays.

Arok, after the Olympics, had to face the prospect of rebuilding a team following the loss of key players to Europe, injuries and withdrawals from the national team.

Undaunted, he brought in several new faces, most of whom have magically clicked and his squad against Swedish champions, Malmo FF, last month gave an excellent account of itself to win

both matches, 3-2 and 3-0.

Arok now is in the enviable position of having several players in contention for key positions.

The Malmo series demonstrated Australia can field a competitive team even without its expatriate stars, something unthinkable a couple of years ago.

Arok will no doubt have gleaned valuable information from his lightning sortie to Tel Aviv last week to watch Israel and New Zealand do battle in their World Cup opener.

His trip to Israel may be a good omen because, would you believe, Australia have never lost an international against any team Arok has "spied" on.

Arok's one burning ambition is to equal the record of friendly rival Rale Rasic, who remains the only Australian Soccer coach to take his team to the World Cup finals — in 1974.

On current form, Arok certainly has the players to pull it off, even though the final hurdle — should the Socceroos overcome Israel and New Zealand — is a formidable one.

The game against New Zealand is the 45th full international the Australians have played under Arok.

Forty-five, coincidentally, is also the number of times Australia and New Zealand will have met each other.

Since Arok took over, Australia have played 44 full internationals, for 21 wins, 12 draws and 11 losses.

The Australians have scored 71 goals and conceded 41 in the process.

In all 80 international games, under Arok, the record reads: 37 wins, 20 draws and 23 defeats. Goals for 128 and conceded 76.

Australian fans will be keeping their fingers crossed that Frank Arok's 81st international match will bring up victory No. 38 and our 25th win in a full international against New Zealand.



Frank Arok celebrates one of Australia's goals against New Zealand at the old Sydney Sports Ground in 1985 when the Socceroos won 2-0 to set up a play-off with Scotland.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand reached the second phase of the Oceania World Cup qualifying group by eliminating Fiji and Chinese Taipei respectively late last year.

Australia knocked Fiji out on a 5-2 aggregate and New Zealand, playing both matches at home, ousted Chinese Taipei.

Israel were given a bye.

Preliminary results:
★ Fiji 1 (Madigi) Australia 0 in Nadi.

★ Australia 5 (C. Yankos 2, Spink, Arnold, Trimboli) Fiji 1 (Delai) in Newcastle.

★ New Zealand 4 (Wright, McClennan, Barkley, Halligan) Chinese Taipei 0 in Wellington.

★ Chinese Taipei 1 (Lund, own goal) New Zealand 4 (McClennan 3, Wright) in Auckland.

WHEN Australia and New Zealand take the field at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday it will be the 45th full international between the Australasian rivals.

The teams first met on June 17, 1922 at Dunedin, when the home side won 3-1.

Their last encounter was in Bendigo, Victoria, on October 16, 1988 when the Australians won 2-0 in the second leg of the Trans-Tasman series.

Australia have the superior record, having won on 24 occasions, drawn 10 times and lost 10 matches.

Australia have also scored twice as many goals as the Kiwis: 120 to 61.

This is how Australia and New Zealand have fared in World Cup competition:

★ 1973
1-1 in Auckland
3-3 in Sydney

★ 1977

BY LOU GAUTIER

3-1 Australia in Sydney
1-1 in Auckland

★ 1981
3-3 in Auckland
2-0 New Zealand in Sydney

★ 1985
0-0 in Auckland
2-0 Australia in Sydney

Australia's World Cup scorers against New Zealand were:

★ 1973: Ernie Campbell, Doug Utjesenovic, Ray Baartz, Branko Buljevic.

★ 1977: Peter Oller-ton (3), John Kosmina.

★ 1981: Eddie Krncevic, Ken Boden (Woodin and G. Turner scored the All White goals in the Sydney win that knocked the Socceroos out).

★ 1985 John Kosmina, David Mitchell.

Our record against New Zealand reveals how close it has been since both countries started competing in the World Cup.

Australia participated in 1966, but the Kiwis waited until 1970 to do so, and

were knocked out by Israel, who went on to eliminate Australia at the final hurdle — winning 1-0 in Tel Aviv and drawing 1-1 in Sydney — to qualify for Mexico.

Since the two countries have been meeting head-on, Australia has won twice, New Zealand once, and five games have been drawn. Australia has scored 13 goals to New Zealand's 11.

Australia has yet to win a World up tie in New Zealand. The four to date, all played in Auckland, resulted in draws.

And at home, Australia won in 1977 and 1983 by a two-goal margin, but also lost, in 1981, 2-0 in what was Australian Soccer's darkest World Cup hour.

If past history means anything, the current series should again be tight, with perhaps one goal in it as New Zealanders are always pumped up whenever they take on an Australian team — in any sport.

STAR TRIO BACK

EDDIE Krncevic and Frank Farina will be available for BOTH World Cup matches against Israel.

They will link up with the Socceroos in Athens before the match in Tel Aviv on March 16 when the Socceroos will play a Greek club side on Wednesday, March 15.

The Belgian-based strikers may also be on hand in Sydney on April 16 when Australia plays the return game against Israel, if required.

Charlie Yankos, for his part, returned to Australia this week and will play on Sunday against New Zealand, then fly with the team to Tel Aviv, and he, too, is available for the final game against Israel.

The ASF is trying to find a sponsor to defray the costs of fielding the three European-based Socceroos.

The three players are said to be earning big bucks for their appearances.

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WALLY SAVOR



ALAN DAVIDSON



ANDY KOCZKA



WARREN SPINK

The 1989 Socceroos

- JEFF OLVER (Melbourne Croatia) — goalkeeper. Born 25-11-60. 32 caps.
- MIKE GIBSON (St George) — goalkeeper. Born 1-3-63. 2 caps.
- WALLY SAVOR (Sydney Croatia) — defender. Born 21-6-59. 19 caps.
- GRAHAM JENNINGS (Sydney Croatia) — defender. Born 18-1-60. 43 caps.
- ANDY KOCZKA (St George) — defender. Born 9-9-65. 3 caps.
- GARY VAN EGMOND (Melbourne JUST) — defender. Born 29-6-65. 7 caps.
- ALAN DAVIDSON (Melbourne Croatia) — defender. Born 1-6-60. 45 caps.
- ALEX TOBIN (Adelaide City) — defender. Born 5-4-66. 3 caps.
- STEVE CALDERAN (Marconi) — defender. Born 24-4-63. No caps.
- CHARLIE YANKOS (PAOK) — defender. Born 29-5-61. 42 caps.
- PAUL WADE (South Melbourne) — midfielder. Born 20-3-62. 28 caps.
- MIKE PETERSEN (South Melbourne) — midfielder. Born 6-5-65. 10 caps.
- OSCAR CRINO (Melbourne JUST) — midfielder. Born 9-8-62. 33 caps.
- JASON POLAK (Sydney Olympic) — midfielder. Born 9-1-68. 1 cap.
- GRAHAM ARNOLD (Sydney Croatia) — striker. Born 3-8-63. 31 caps.
- WARREN SPINK (Preston Makedonia) — striker. Born 4-10-66. 4 caps.
- SCOTT OLLERENSHAW (St George) — striker. Born 10-2-68. 12 caps.
- ROBBIE SLATER (Sydney Croatia) — striker. Born 22-11-64. 5 caps.
- PAUL TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne) — striker. Born 25-2-69. 1 cap.

The 1989 Kiwis

- CLINT GOSLING (Sydney Olympic) — goalkeeper.
- PETER KUIPER (Mt Wellington) — goalkeeper.
- RICKY HERBERT (Mt Wellington) — defender.
- CERI EVANS (Oxford United) — defender.
- GARY LUND (Christchurch Utd) — defender.
- MALCOLM DUNFORD (Wellington Utd) — defender.
- ROGER GRAY (Mt Wellington) — defender.
- TOMMY MASON (English Non-League) — defender.
- MICHAEL RIDENTON (Mt Wellington) — defender.
- DANNY HALLIGAN (Christchurch Utd) — midfielder.
- CHRIS RILEY (Miramar) — midfielder.
- DAVE WITTEVEEN (Mt Wellington) — midfielder.
- TONY LEVY (Mt Wellington) — midfielder.
- NIGEL DEVENHAM (Mt Wellington) — midfielder.
- MICHAEL McGARRY (Sydney Olympic) — midfielder.
- WYNTON RUFER (Grasshoppers Zurich) — striker. *
- DARREN MCLENNAN (Mt Wellington) — striker.
- NOEL BARKLEY (Mt Wellington) — striker.

* Unlikely to be released



OSCAR CRINO



JEFF OLVER



DANNY HALLIGAN



MALCOLM DUNFORD



CLINT GOSLING



CERI EVANS



MIKE McGARRY

NZ coaches' records

THE comparative records of New Zealand coaches Kevin Fallon and John Adshead are very similar.

Adshead was coach of the All Whites from 12 April 1979 to 14 February 1983 (46 months) and in that time the All Whites' record was: P55 W23 D10 L22 F96 A84.

In between Adshead and Fallon, then National Director of Coaching Allan Jones, coached the All Whites for 22 months (14 February 1983 to 5 December 1984). The All Whites' record in that time was: P28 W11 D4 L13 F32 A43.

Fallon took over on 5 December 1984 and was in charge for two weeks short of 48 months. The All Whites' record in that time was: P60 W26 D12 L22 F103 A75.

Three players emerged as the leading goalscorers in the Fallon era and have netted a third of the goals between them — Colin Walker with 15 (2 pens), Michael McGarry 14 (3 pens) and Steve Sumner 10 (5 pens).

Other leading scorers in the Fallon era have been Andy Deeley 8 (1 pen), Malcolm Dunford 7, Kevin Hagan 7 (2 pens), Greg Little 6, Robert Ironside 6 (1 pen), Ceri Evans 4, Paul Halford 4 and Noel Barkley 4 (1 pen).

Since Adshead took over again, in November last year, the All Whites won both World Cup qualifying games against Chinese



John Adshead

Taipei — 4-0 and 4-1. Against Taiwan, McClennan scored four goals, Billy Wright two, and Barkley and Halligan one each.

\$35,000 GRANT

NEW Zealand's World Cup campaign received a major financial boost when the New Zealand Sports Foundation provided \$35,000 towards the All Whites' qualifying matches.

The grant decision was announced by NSW Zealand's Minister of Recreation and Sport, Peter Tapsell.

"The Foundation believes it is important that the World Cup squad have the best possible preparation and has therefore been pleased to assist," he said.

NSL ACTION EVERY SUNDAY
AT 5.00PM

**The
Big
Match**

**PRESTON v HEIDELBERG
WOLLONGONG CITY v MARCONI**

ABC-TV

PRESENTED BY JOHN BELL

Bergers come good!

BY GREG BLAKE

HEIDELBERG coach Jim Tansey had billed his team's clash with Sydney Croatia as a mismatch of Tyson v Bruno proportions.

The difference was that on Sunday at Olympic Village it was a Frank Bruno with the guile of Ali, the strength of Frazier and gloves lined with lead who came out punching against Croatia.

On a day when nearly all went right for struggling Heidelberg for the first time this season, Olympic Village celebrated the upset of the season to date as the Bergers dealt Croatia a double knock-out blow.

Goals on either side of half time by Phil Stubbins and Nick Oulsalkis respectively gave Heidelberg its 2-0 win but it was impressive performances by the likes of Steve Douglas and Willie Raynes, who look like finally finding their NSL feet, which capped off Heidelberg's remarkable day.

And just to further buoy moral at Olympic Village the whispers came thick and fast on Sunday which suggested one or both of the club's former stars

now with PAOK, Charlie Yankos and John Anastasiadis, could be making guest appearances for the Bergers later this year.

The only sour note was an early injury to Peter Bordinon but the setback hardly hampered a Heidelberg side looking little like the loser of recent weeks.

Bristling with confidence, Heidelberg brushed aside Croatia's insipid midfield and stung the visitors with body blows before Raynes's cross was chipped home by Stubbins to give Heidelberg the lead just on half time.

Croatia's best chance fell five minutes after the break when Graham Arnold's header was cleared off the line by John Kanesoulis.

But the brilliant Raynes and Co. continued to carve out the better chances and Heidelberg deservedly got its second goal nine minutes from time.

Raynes's free kick found Stubbins, whose shot was blocked by Tony Franken and Oulsalkis followed up to fire home number two. To cap off a remarkable day for Heidelberg president Lou Yoannidis announced a new \$30,000 sponsorship deal with the company P & M Tsaklis.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic, Bordinon (Kanesoulis 24), Douglas, Scott, Oulsalkis, Stewart, Tredinnick (Alagiolis 74), Stubbins, Goutzioulis, Lucchesi, Raynes.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Sever, Jennings, Hunter, Rozic, Clinch, Slater, Foster, Arnold, Petkovic (Ried 59), Jones (Ingham 59).

REFEREE: D. Voutalis. CROWD: 3000.



Grant Lee gives Bobby Russell the slip at the Sydney Football Stadium last Friday when Sydney Olympic lost 3-0 to South Melbourne Hellas. GODWIN D'AMATO photo.

"Smash and grab" win to Adelaide

BY PHIL MURPHY

after absorbing plenty of pressure.

It was a case of Wollongong being beaten at their own game, the visitors getting their goal on the break 15 minutes after half-time.

After being on the defensive early in the second half, Adelaide swept forward for Adrian Santrac to release striker Steve Maxwell in a race with Wollongong fullback Peter Kotamanidis.

Kotamanidis wasn't up to the task and Maxwell was able to get clear and hammer a shot past goalkeeper Warwick Young from eight metres.

It was all so simple, but Wollongong toiled away all afternoon in midfield with nothing to show for it.

Playing his first full game with Adelaide, former Red Star sweeper Milan Ivanovich was impressive for the visitors.

He read the game well and frustrated the Wolves' strikers continually.

Adelaide coach

Zoran Matic said Ivanovich would obviously be a big asset to his team, but they should start creating more scoring opportunities.

In the other dressing room, Wolves' coach John Fleming was angry at the way his players allowed the Adelaide defence to call the tune.

Fleming also pointed out that he faced a severe shortage of depth, striker Pat Brodnik having had to miss the game with an illness.

In addition, midfielder Danny Crainie was

carried off on a stretcher five minutes into the second half.

Fleming said he must now look to bringing up players from the club's youth team. "My players give the impression they are under no real pressure because we have such a small senior squad," he said.

WOLLONGONG: Young, Kotamanidis (Danzo 80), Vlietstra, Morlando, Hollifield, Bonetti, Crainie (Stefanovski 50), Skeen, Giraldo, Batten, Easthorpe.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Naven, Tobin, Ivanovich, Flounders, Mella, Santrac, Viliati, Mullen, Maxwell, Vidmar.

Referee: Arthur Owens. Crowd: 1246.



RAY VLIETSTRA



Souths' Paul Fernandes and Olympic's Mike McGarry go for the ball last weekend. The Victorians won 3-0. GODWIN D'AMATO pic.

WORLD CUP ITALY 1990

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A tense moment in the South Melbourne goal as goalkeeper Bruce McLaren observes team-mates Paul Wade, Steve Blair and Angie Postecoglou. Souths survived the Sydney Olympic blitz and went on to win 3-0. Photo by GODWIN D'AMATO.

West End. Beer at its best.

National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi.....	8	6	1	1	20	7	13
St George.....	8	5	2	1	10	6	12
Preston.....	8	5	1	2	12	7	11
Sydney Croatia.....	8	4	2	2	6	4	10
Wollongong City.....	8	3	2	3	7	5	8
Melbourne Croatia.....	8	3	2	3	15	14	8
Sunshine GC.....	8	3	2	3	9	8	8
Apia Leichhardt.....	8	3	2	3	10	12	8
South Melbourne.....	8	3	1	4	11	9	7
Sydney Olympic.....	8	2	3	3	8	8	7
Blacktown City.....	8	3	1	4	10	20	7
Adelaide City.....	8	2	1	5	9	12	5
Melbourne JUST.....	8	1	2	5	8	12	4
Heidelberg.....	8	2	0	6	6	17	4

Results

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 3 (M. Petersen, A. Postecoglou, P. Trimboli) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Sydney Football Stadium. Crowd: 3819.
 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 2 (O. Latif 2) MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 at Somer Street Stadium. Crowd: 4000.
 PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (W. Spink, J. Markovski) MELBOURNE JUST 1 (D. Deankovic) at Schintler Reserve. Crowd: 5575.
 MARCONI 4 (Z. Nastevski 2, T. McCulloch, V. Colagiuri) BLACKTOWN 1 (S. Jee) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3750.
 ST GEORGE 2 (S. Ollerenshaw, A. Koczka) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (P. Murray) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1557.
 ADELAIDE CITY 1 (S. Maxwell) WOLLONGONG OLYMPIC 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1246.
 HEIDELBERG 2 (P. Stubbins, N. Ousalkas) SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd: 3000.

Top Scorers

IVAN KELIC	Melbourne Croatia	8
ZLATKO NASTEVSKI	Marconi	8
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	St George	5
WARREN SPINK	Preston Makedonia	5
OSSIE LATIF	Sunshine GC	4
JOHN MARKOVSKI	Preston Makedonia	4
MATT BINGLEY	St George	3
MILAN DIMOSKI	Melbourne C JUST	3
RANDELL EASTHORPE	Wollongong	3
IAN GRAY	Marconi	3
JOHN KOSMINA	Apia Leichhardt	3
DAMIAN MORI	South Melbourne	3
JOE MULLEN	Adelaide City	3
MARSHALL SOPER	Sydney Olympic	3
ANGIE POSTECGLOU	South Melbourne	3
TOM MCCULLOCH	Marconi	3

Crowds

ROUND 8: 22,947
 AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,277

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (8 ROUNDS): 193,359
 AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: 24,170

20 YEARS AGO

□ **MARCONI's** avowed intention was to win promotion to the Sydney First Division. The club stole a march on the opposition by signing Les Scheinflug as player-coach as well as ace goalscorer Johnny Giacometti.

□ **KEN VAIRY**, the former Australian international forward, joined First Division NSW inter-suburban Blacktown.

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□ **THE Australian** Soccer Federation held its first national senior coaching course. Some 120 coaches attended the week-long exercise in Sydney.

□ **JIM ROONEY** asked Lion for a transfer. Chances are he will join several fellow-Victorians playing with Sydney clubs.

□ **ADELAIDE JUVENTUS'** John Perin copped a five-week suspension for "enciting" spectators in the course of the abandoned Juventus-Lion Ampol Cup tie.

Socceroos sink BY LOU GAUTIER

THREE second half goals by South Melbourne Hellas sent Sydney Olympic crashing to a 3-0 defeat in their first home match at the Sydney Football Stadium last Friday.

The Sydney air must agree with Souths who have scored 75 percent of all their goals this season in Sydney where they also thrashed St George by the same score.

To add to the Sydney connection, all three Hellas goals were posted by Socceroo squad members who had spent the week in camp there, preparing for the World Cup match against New Zealand.

Despite having much more of the ball and creating many clear-cut scoring opportunities, Olympic again squandered competition points and hardly looked top five contenders, let alone title aspirants.

Souths gave their opponents a lesson in opportunism. Their counter-attacks, especially in the second half, were deadly.

Marshall Soper missed absolute sitters in the 27th, 61st and 62nd minutes, but was still by far the most mobile, enterprising Olympic striker.

Mike McGarry and Peter Raskopoulos were never in the game and will want to forget this match in a hurry.

Souths absorbed all the pressure before stealing the game in a devastating three-minute spell early into the second half.

The first goal fell to Mike Petersen, whose 22-metre drive from a Peter Tsolakis corner in the 55th minute, eluded Gary Meier.

Penalty specialist Angie Postecoglou made no mistake with his 58th minute spot-kick after Kim Taliadoros had been brought down by Robert Ironside.

Olympic, to their credit, did fight back and applied still more pressure on Bruce MacLaren's goal, but the ball, to put it mildly, did not bounce kindly for them.

They certainly would be better served if they showed more composure in their play and had a couple of players who could hold the ball instead of rushing around, more often than not surrendering possession to the opposition.

Besides Soper's two misses in the space of 45 seconds, Gary Phillips, a 32nd minute replacement for the injured Jason Polak, saw a fierce 25-metre shot



Olympic

hit the woodwork.

To add insult to injury, Paul Trimboli, largely unsighted until then, delivered the knock-out punch by coolly heading a lovely cross from Taliadoros past Meier for goal number three in the 84th minute.

It was a typical Hellas goal — a devastating counter-attack which caught the Olympic defence flat-footed and out of position.

Coach Eddie Thomson was only stating the obvious when he lamented after yet another disappointing display by his team the lack of an accomplished goal scorer.

Souths, whose winning tactics were so cleverly devised by coach Brian Garvey, were superbly marshalled in defence by the under-rated Steve Blair.

Youngsters Damian Mori and Taliadoros confirmed their exciting potential and were

always dangerous on the break, while Paul Wade's display was most encouraging from a national team viewpoint.

Perhaps only Phillips, Pontidas and Soper, despite his atrocious finishing, left the magnificent Sydney Football Stadium with their reputations intact.

While on the subject of the ground, it is hard to fathom why the match attracted far less spectators than Olympic's previous three home games at suburban St George Stadium. The centrally located venue has the very best of amenities and offers an unobstructed view wherever one sits.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Bernal (Edwards 64), Hooker, Dakos, Ironside, Pontidas, Soper, Raskopoulos, Polak (Phillips 32), McGarry, Lee.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: MacLaren, Healy, Postecoglou, Fernandes, Blair, Wade, Mori, Petersen (Russell 71), Trimboli, Taliadoros (Donnelly 87), Tsolakis.
Referee: P. Spiers. Crowd: 3819.

Zlatko decimates Demons

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ZLATKO NASTEVSKI was the superstar in a team of stars when Marconi caned Blacktown City 4-1 at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night.

The clever midfielder scored the first two goals and laid on the third in magical style, to have his team in an unbeatable 3-0 lead as early as the 41st minute.

Whilst the Demons sparked up and scored through Stephane Jee before replacement Vince Colaguiari chalked up another for the home side, they were never in the hunt.

With Lawrie McKinna and Jason van Blerk missing with one-match suspensions, Jee and Zlatko Arambasic had to shoulder heavy loads at the front.

But, on the night, it would have taken a far better side than Blacktown to go within a bull's roar of dampening Marconi's drive.

Ian Gray helped lay the foundation for the win, Tom McCulloch threaded his way through opponents with ease, Peter Katholos was as determined as ever, and Nastevski was something else again.

The Blacktown defence had twice been under real pressure when Nastevski delivered a splendid lob over Steve Watson for the first goal in the 19th minute.

Jean-Paul de Marig-

ny deserved a goal when he drove one onto the crossbar in the 36th minute, but seconds later it was the brilliant Nastevski again as he guided one right under Watson and into the net.

With four minutes to the break McCulloch anticipated the ball that Nastevski lifted in his path along left of goal, and arrived at the right split-second to guide it home.

At this stage Blacktown were in a no win situation, although they did look more confident in the second half.

The Marconi defence was more open and Jee punished them with a shot that went in from a slight deflection in the 56th minute.

Not to be denied, Marconi's Vince Colaguiari, who replaced Fred de Jong after he had received a gash to his forehead, headed in a de Marigny short cross to complete the scoring at 4-1 in the 68th minute.

MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, de Marigny, Calderan, Wheatley, Gray, McCulloch, Nastevski, de Jong (Colaguiari 64), Katholos (Gomez 77), Lowe.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson, Naumov, G. Sterrey (Bennett 46), Reynolds, Northam, Odzakovic, L. Sterrey, Meier, Divljak (Gibson 46), Arambasic, Jee.
Referee: J. McConnell. Crowd: 3750.



Socceroo Mike Petersen streaks away from a tumbling Mike McGarry when South Melbourne defeated Sydney Olympic 3-0 at the Sydney Football Stadium last Friday. On Sunday they might clash head-on again in the Australia v New Zealand World Cup qualifier.

John Markovski destroys JUST

BY PETER DESIRA

IT may be too late for the Oceania World Cup qualifiers, but John Markovski just has to come in the reckoning for the national team if and when the Socceroos qualify for the play-off against South American opponents later this year.

Markovski's unstoppable form for Preston Makedonia last weekend made one wonder how he is not already training with the Socceroos.

The 19-year-old midfielder scored a superb goal to give Preston Makedonia a 2-1 win over Melbourne JUST and helped stretch Makedonia's unbeaten run to six games.

Markovski unleashed a 30-metre drive with his powerful left boot to catch Zoran Nikitovic unaware and although the JUST goalkeeper got a hand to the ball he could not stop it going into the back of the net.

The goal in the 35th minute capped off a hectic 12-minute period which produced all the goals of an eventful match.

Preston had broken the deadlock in the 23rd minute following a long throw from Andrew Zinni on the left. Drago Deankovic misjudged the bounce of the ball, allowing Warren Spink a free header from inside the six-yard box to score his fifth goal of the season.

Deankovic made up for his error two minutes later by scoring the equaliser for JUST. Following Bill Piculovski's handball just outside the right side of the box, Oscar Crino drove a low free-kick into the area.

Milan Dimoski got a touch and Deankovic swooped at the far post to score only his third goal in 98 NSL appearances.

But the match didn't turn out to be one to remember for the sweeper. He and Preston substitute Steve Smith were ordered off the park by Adelaide referee Jim Rossis in the 68th minute after the two had tangled off the ball.

The referee kept charge of a difficult game but spoiled an otherwise good performance by finishing seconds before the full 90 minutes had expired.

The sending off had taken about three minutes to sort out and there were other stoppages, so one would have expected a fair amount of injury-time to be added on.

The expulsions came amid a period of JUST domination and was followed by the nearest the home side came to collecting a point. But Crino's header in the 78th minute was denied by the crossbar.

Ernie Tapai supplied the cross for the chance and had been among a midfield which was gaining the upper hand over Preston, but he was surprisingly replaced a few seconds later as coach Ilija Dimoski sent on Bill Lazopoulos to give his side a three-pronged attack.

But the front line remained as ineffective and Preston's defence continued to cope comfortably with JUST's unco-ordinated surges forward.

MELBOURNE JUST: Nikitovic, Durakovic, Deankovic (sent off 68), van Egmond, Fabrizio, Tapai (Lazopoulos 79), Murphy, Crino, Mitrovski, Dimoski, Paletskides.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Tralanedes, Roodhouse, Piculovski, Jackson, Jolevski, Silfkaas, Zinni (Smith 59, sent off 68), I. Tasevski, Markovski, Spink, Markovac (Runje 71).
Referee: J. Rossis. Crowd: 5575.

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Saints get up to down depleted Apia

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE, after being down a goal after only 16 minutes, fought valiantly to get up and finally down Apia 2-1 at Lambert Park last Sunday.

But Apia's skipper and goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano, after proving a huge thorn in St George's side for most of the match, ended up as the "villain" for his team.

In the 76th minute Pezzano spilled a vicious 20-metre left-footed drive from Saints' captain Andy Koczka into his net following a short free-kick by left midfielder Alan Pottier.

Apia hit the lead in the 16th minute when midfielder Pedro Ricoy cut back a lovely ball off the byline.

John Kosmina flicked on across the face of the goal and youth international striker Peter Murray was left with the easiest of tasks to knock in from only three metres.

Saints' rugged giant midfielder, Craig Mof-

fatt, burst through on a 35-metre raid in the 25th minute, but his final shot from inside the box flashed centimetres wide of Apia's leftpost.

Ten minutes later, St George's young striker, Zoran Ilic, chested down the ball on the right but his 15-metre blast rocketed just over the crossbar.

Five minutes from halftime, Saints' dynamic left-back Mike Grbevski raced down the left flank and well into the box.

Grbevski was about to unleash a drive at the target when Apia defender Jimmy Webber came from nowhere with a fabulous sliding tackle to steal the ball away to safety.

St George had two consecutive chances in the first two minutes after the break to score from teenage striker Matthew Bingley, but the first strike went wide of the target and the second was well saved by Pezzano.

Action exploded in the 64th and 65th minutes, both involving

former World Cup centre-back, David Ratcliffe.

In the first instance, Ratcliffe headed well on target following a corner on the right, but Pezzano swallowed the danger.

One minute later, Ratcliffe was fouled inside the Apia box for referee Donald Campbell to immediately point to the penalty spot, leaving Scott Ollershaw to lift his shot into the net.

After the match, a dejected Apia coach, Michael Urukalo stated: "We had four players out through suspension, which obviously affects fluency. From last year's team, we only had Pezzano and Mark Brown playing, so how can we have consistency and harmony in our side?"

Meanwhile, Dez Marton, in charge of Saints whilst Frank Arok was in Israel, said: "I appreciate the result and the way my team played. We fully deserved victory on all the chances we created."

Best for St George



M. Brown

were the industrious Ollershaw and sweeper Koczka, whilst Pezzano, Ricoy and Webber were the pick for Apia.

APIA: Pezzano, Cosentino (Franze 72), Webber, O'Connor, M.Brown, Ricoy, Mason, Ellem, Hagan, Murray, Kosmina (Blagojevic 59).

ST GEORGE: Gibson, Green, O'Shea, Koczka, Grbevski, Moffatt (Harper 80), Ratcliffe, Pottier, Ilic, Ollershaw, Bingley. Referee: D.Campbell. Crowd: 1557.

Keogh inspires George Cross

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

MELBOURNE Croatia supporters must be wondering how their dominant side lost 2-0 to a depleted Sunshine George Cross team which rarely ventured past the half-way line at the Croatian Sports Centre last Saturday.

Throughout the match, Georgie's solid, towering defence, led superbly by keeper Sean Keogh, must have seemed akin to conquering Mt Everest to a rampaging but frustrated Croatia strike-force.

From the outset, Croatia seized the initiative and swept forward in numbers, creating several chances, especially through midfielder Ivan Duzel, in his first full game for his new club, but Cross' tall defenders John Waddell, Aki Kotzamichalis, Chris Taylor and Shaun Parton proved immovable.

In the 29th minute,

against the run of play, rangy Cross striker Ossie Latif directed a powerful drive into the far corner of the net from the edge of the area, leaving Olver stranded off his line.

Only four minutes later, Latif proved venomous again. From a direct free-kick all of 25 metres, he unleashed a stunning crack high into the net which Olver knew nothing about.

Latif's twin-strike gave Georgie a comfortable cushion to reflect on during the interval.

Only nine minutes after the break, Cross found itself a man short when defender Andrew Marth was sent-off by referee Tom McRoe over an incident with Croatia striker Francis Awaritefe.

Consequently, Croatian pressure intensified and chances fell thick and fast.

Kelic and Awaritefe missed headers from close range. Then Caleta made a dashing run on the left, only to

be foiled by the brilliance of air-borne keeper Sean Keogh.

Then young Croatia midfielder Mark Talajich, back in the side after a persistent groin injury that kept him sidelined for a lengthy time, blasted a ferocious drive all of 40 metres which Keogh could only grasp on the second attempt.

Ironically, the final chance fell to George Cross in injury-time. Striker Paul Lewis went on a dashing run diagonally from the left wing to the edge of the box where he was finally thwarted.

Latif, hungry for a hat-trick, stepped up and pelted a low drive right through the wall, but Olver was equal to the task on this occasion.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Olver, Davidson, Cannell, Talajich, Opsisina, Donnelly, Duzel, Biskic, Caleta, Kelic (Selemidis 67), Awaritefe.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh, Waddell, Taylor (Lennon 9) Ketsakidie, Parton, McLaren (Carter 30), Kotzamichalis, Lewis, Marth (sent off 54), Faulkner, Latif. Referee: T. McRoe. Crowd: 4000.

Vital SBS telecast

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SBS-TV early tomorrow morning will bring in live the telecast of the vital Group 5 World Cup qualifier between Scotland and France, direct from Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Les Murray, SBS's eloquent Soccer expert and presenter, told ASW last night:

"The match we are bringing to our viewers is crucial to both nations.

"Yugoslavia has almost certainly qualified from this group.

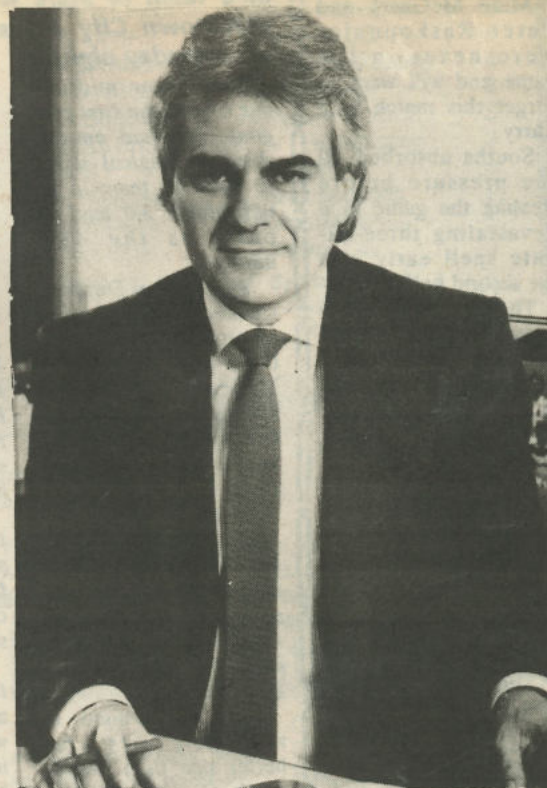
The second qualifier is expected to come from either Scotland or France.

"France has already dropped three points by losing to Yugoslavia and drawing away with Cyprus.

"Scotland, meanwhile, drew at home with Yugoslavia, so the game against France is a desperate battle for a berth in the finals in Italy next year.

"The French manager, Michel Platini, has recalled the highly experienced and ball-playing centre-back, Patrick Battiston, to face the Scots. But unfortunately for France, another veteran, Jean Tigana, has lost his battle for fitness and will not play.

"Scotland also has



Les Murray

problems. Their captain Roy Aitken is injured and considered unlikely to start."

Joining Murray in the SBS studios for match analysis will be Johnny Warren, Willie Wallace and Tommy Anderson.

The telecast times are:

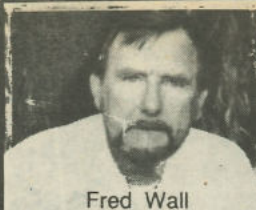
Perth 4.30am, Brisbane 6.30am, Adelaide 7.00am, Sydney and Melbourne 7.30am.

SBS-TV will also cover Sunday's World

Cup match between Australia and New Zealand at 4.30pm in all states except Sydney.

A replay will be screened the same evening at 10.25pm in all areas, including NSW.

Extended highlights of last Sunday's World Cup opener between Israel and New Zealand will be shown this coming Saturday on Les Murray's "World Soccer" programme.



Fred Wall

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Sutton's loss is Australia's gain

BY MIKE TICHER

ENGLISH non-League club Sutton United have hardly been out of the news lately, following their adventures in the FA Cup.

Their 8-0 defeat at Norwich (currently second in the League) did nothing to detract from the remarkable achievement of beating another First Division side, Coventry City, 2-1 in the previous round.

Last year the US performed valiantly in the Cup too, putting out League sides Aldershot (3-0) and Peterborough (3-1, away), before taking Middlesbrough (then of the Second Division) to extra-time in a fourth round replay at Ayresome Park, finally succumbing 1-0.

United's exploits should be of particular interest to Australian Soccer fans, since they were the club which Melbourne Croatia's new sensation, Francis Awaritefe, played for in England.

Awaritefe was signed by United from neighbouring non-League team Tooting & Mitcham United two years ago, and made an instant impact on a Sutton side which was then on a seemingly endless upward curve of success.

Based in London's comfortable outer southern suburbs, just a few miles from Wimbledon (whose Cup feats they are now challenging), United had been a member of the old Isthmian League for many years, successful, but without ever really hitting the headlines.

Since the 1970s, they have prospered from the concerted effort to form all English clubs outside the Football League into a 'pyramid', so that it will be theoretically possible for the clubs in the very lowest League to work their way through to the very highest, and now, ultimately, to the League itself.

The Isthmian League (now known less romantically as the Vauxhall-Opel League) took its place in the pyramid immediately below the cream of the non-League world, the Alliance Premier League (now the GM Vauxhall Conference). After winning the Vauxhall-Opel League



FRANCIS AWARITEFE — from the suburbs of London to the National Soccer League.

for two successive years, amid an avalanche of goals, Sutton accepted a place in the Conference in 1986, having initially been wary of their capabilities to cope with the big-time.

United have maintained a comfortable mid-table position since joining the Conference, without ever threatening to challenge for a place in the Football League, an opportunity which was opened up to Conference clubs with the introduction of automatic promotion to the Fourth Division in the 1986-87 season (for the top club only). This was been a fantastic boost, with attendances almost doubling last season, and still on the increase.

Crowds are now not far below the level of Australian NSL matches, with all but a few teams averaging over 1,000, and the record for a single match now standing at over 9,000.

Sutton's ambitions are more modest, rarely enticing more than 800 through the turnstiles for league games.

With so many professional teams in close proximity (Chelsea, Fulham, QPR, Wimbledon and Crystal Palace are all within easy reach), this situation is unlikely to improve a great deal, and for this reason United will probably never be a serious contender for long-term Football League status.

This, then, is the background to Awaritefe's career.

His extravagant, if sometimes erratic talents were a welcome addition to Sutton, although the presence of several highly accomplished forwards at the club at the same time, meant that his first-team place could not always be guaranteed.

One of these teammates was the astonishingly prolific striker, Paul McKinnon, who spends the (northern) summers in Sweden, and was with Australia's recent opponents Malmö, for several successful seasons.

Indeed, it was often said that Sutton's season never really began until McKinnon re-joined them in October, after the end of the Swedish season.

If Awaritefe had stayed in England, he would undoubtedly have found success at Conference level, and it is not frivolous to speculate that he could have followed in the footsteps of another Tooting find, Carlton Fairweather, now playing in First Division for Wimbledon.

However, England's loss is Australia's gain, and Croatia fans can look forward to some dazzling skills from Francis.

Unpredictable he may be, but boring, never!

It's a long way from South London, but Awaritefe is obviously making the transition with ease.

Good luck to him!

Stewart was sorely tested

BY GREG BLAKE

JOHN Stewart's "Mr Determination" tag has never been more sorely tested than over the last six months of his career.

The former Queenslander has overcome more hurdles in the last few months than he's ever done before.

And yet Stewart, acknowledged by his peers as one of the most dependable midfielders in the NSL, has still managed to come up trumps with new club Heidelberg.

First, it was the battle to keep Preston Makedonia in the NSL last season and it was Stewart, as much as anyone, who helped Preston maintain its premier league status.

But along with half a dozen other Preston stars, Stewart was dumped at season's end and as the 1989 NSL season kicked off, he was no closer to finding a new home.

He was, he said, less than a week from returning home to Queensland and giving up his NSL career.

"Heidelberg," he explained, "threw me a lifeline."

"I've trained hard all summer and now I'm out to prove Preston wrong by helping to keep Heidelberg in the National League."

Stewart is determined to see Heidelberg doesn't go down and he believes the

Bergers' disastrous start to 1989 is little different to the situation faced by his former club just 12 months ago.

"It was just like this at Preston last year but, like then, I can see a light at the end of the tunnel," he told ASW.

"The team was shaky early on but we're learning every week and once the team settles, we'll start to get results."

"Most of the guys here are just learning the ropes at NSL level."

Stewart says he doesn't mind facing another battle to save his National League skin.

It is clear he thrives on the challenge and he is enjoying his new role as a senior statesman with a young team.

"Despite the results, the atmosphere around the club is good," he claims.

"Jim (coach Jim Tansey) is great to work with — he's a great character and he's really helping the young guys."

"Obviously there will be some pressure on the new players the club has bought if the results don't come but I don't think we'll have too much to worry about in the weeks ahead."

Certainly not, if Stewart has any say in the matter.



JOHN STEWART strides ahead for Preston Makedonia against Brunswick Juventus United.

BID FOR OLDFIELD

WEST HAM United have made a \$1.3 million bid for Perth-born David Oldfield who plays for Luton Town.

Oldfield, 21, has been unable to command a regular place in the Luton attack, and the club, while reluctant to sell him, is said to be tempted by the offer.

Luton agreed earlier

in the season to sell him to Norwich for \$1.1 million, but Oldfield rejected the move.

The club then turned down higher offers from Everton and Manchester City.

Oldfield came to Luton as an apprentice player in 1984 and scored two goals in a spectacular first team debut in February 1988.



ANDY KOCZKA
St George BSC



NAME: Andrew Koczka
BIRTH DATE: 9.9.65 Annandale, Sydney
HEIGHT: 1.84m, 82kgs
MARRIED: Yes, to Debbie, five weeks ago
HOME: Campsie, Sydney
CAR: Corolla
NICKNAME: 'Ozzie Joe'
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Earlwood Wanderers and Canterbury Districts
OCCUPATION: Development Officer
FAVOURITE PLAYER: (Aust) Warren Spink, (Overseas) Diego Maradona
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Boxing, water skiing, rugby league
FAVOURITE GROUND: St George Stadium
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Burrinjuck Dam, near Yass, NSW
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Rock n' Roll
FAVOURITE POSITION: Sweeper
ACTOR/ESS: Paul Newman and Rachel Ward
FAVOURITE MOVIE: History of the World Part 1
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Hill Street Blues
FAVOURITE DISH: Chicken schnitzel
FAVOURITE DRINK: Southern Comfort and coke
LIKES: Friendly people and a sense of humour
DISLIKES: Violent people after drinks, and know-it-alls
INTERNATIONAL GAMES: Three internationals for Australia at full level and the two matches vs Malmö FF, in Melbourne and Sydney; NSW under 12 to 16 and Australian under 19 and 23
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1987 Grand Final vs Apia Leichhardt at the Parramatta Stadium. We won 4-0
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: 1986 Grand Final vs Sydney Olympic at the Parramatta Stadium, when Chris Kalantzis scored a tremendous goal in extra-time. We lost 3-2
WORST INJURY: Torn medial ligament
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: (St George) Scott Ollerenshaw, (Aust) Paul Trimboli
HARDEST OPPONENT: Gary van Egmond
FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYERS: Pele & Ferenc Puskas
BOOT TYPE: Diadora 'Tardelli'
AMBITIONS FOR '89: To secure a place in the national team and win the grand final with St George
LONG-TERM AMBITIONS: To get around and coach as many kids as possible
— compiled by Joe Di Meglio



NSW Pre-Season Challenge Cup

Ilinden rocked at Seymour Shaw Park

CANBERRA Croatia, playing with 10 men for most of the match, had the upper hand for almost the entire 80 minutes to floor Rockdale Ilinden 6-2 at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday afternoon.

Alan Reis, the 'Best and Fairest' Rothmans medal winner of 1987, was sent off in the 19th minute of the first half as Canberra led 1-0 after an altercation with Greg Lerond inside his own half of the field.

Reis and Lerond pushed one another and it appeared that referee Sasha Spiroski was going to give them no more than a caution, but he stunned the Canberra striker by flashing a red card.

Despite the one-man advantage, Ilinden was never in the race, conceding two more goals in the first half before collapsing midway through the second to be 1-6 down before pulling one back close to the end.

Marko Perinovic, Canberra's star striker, gave notice of his intentions early in the piece as he crashed his header against the bar in the third minute. A few minutes later, following an unexpected error by Lerond, the visitors went ahead.

Lerond, in attempting to stop the ball from rolling over the

line for a corner kick, presented Pratezina with the ball. He quickly sent his cross to the near post for Tommy Sermani to head wide of Warren.

Canberra then missed an opening in the 22nd when Marcina sent his shot way over the bar before scoring through Pratezina in the 26th. Perinovic beat O'Donnell for pace, then sent in a low cross for Pratezina to squeeze the ball under the keeper.

Ray Junna broke through on the flank in the 34th minute before serving Sermani with yet another pin-point cross. Sermani flicked it to the far post and Perinovic was on hand to nod it for Peter Mazis and Warren was beaten again.

Stuart Porter's free-kick in the 50th gave Ilinden a new lease of life, but only two minutes later Sermani broke through to find Lemezina who poked it past Warren for 4-1.

A further two minutes into the match and Lemezina was at it again. His fine pass found Perinovic in full flight to score with a crashing right foot drive.

Lemezina, the new sensation from Canberra, managed to squeeze past Buchanan in the 65th but was pushed aside and Perinovic made no mistake from the resultant spot-kick to give Canberra its huge five-goal lead.

Louis Dounis reduced the score to 6-2

in the dying stages of the match but the goal did little to warm the hearts of the die-hard Ilinden supporters at the game.

Canberra won with just the scoreline needed to qualify and had to wait 24 hours to see just what Wollongong Macedonia could do against Sutherland before the finalists are known.

Most impressive for the winners were Lemezina and Perinovic with two goals apiece and also the ever-present Sermani,

while Glavinic, who came in for the out of form Jason Dunn, certainly showed qualities that should keep him in the first team.

Ilinden, apart from the hard-working Zlatko Markovski, showed very little and are experiencing a hard patch at the wrong time of the season.

ILINDEN: Warren, Segreto, McAusland, O'Donnell, Martin (Wilson), Lerond, Naumovski, Markovski, Buchanan, Dounis, Porter.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Glannasca, Junna, Mazis, Glavinic, Young, Marcina (Dukic), Sermani, Pratezina (Flores), Perinovic, Reis, Lemezina.

Changed staff at Canberra Croatia

FROM GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia has parted company with its two assistant coaches, Oscar Langone and Chris Tanzey.

Secretary Dennis Glavinic said this week the two could not agree on terms for the season. "Ivan Gruicic has now been appointed assistant coach to take charge of the reserve team," he said.

Langone said he had been looking forward to the season, "but the amount offered Chris and myself was so small I have to think they did not really want us to accept."

He was particularly unhappy as he believed the groundwork for a successful reserve side had already been laid. "We began with 35 players and have weeded them down to 16," he said.

"And only last week we beat CCAE's full ACT first-division side 6-1. Everything was ready for the start of the season."

Initially he would concentrate on his commitments as joint coach of the ACT under-18 side and Belnorth under-14s "which I have been taking since under-11 level."

"I also plan to take my level-three coaching certificate nad a coaching instructors' course at the AIS."

"After that I am not sure. I want to be with a club and if I can't get something suitable I will even consider leaving Canberra."

"It is that bad. Soccer is in my blood."

Sharks bite hard

SUTHERLAND Shire blasted Wollongong Macedonia off the park in the opening half, then defended stoutly during the second period to win narrowly 2-1 last Sunday afternoon at Kelly Park.

With Peter Terry, Sutherland's star defender on the bench, and Roy Cotton out of the side (rested for the semis this Wednesday night), Sutherland looked doomed against the star-studded Wollongong Macedonia.

However, the youngsters from Sutherland, keeping alive their fine tradition of producing results on a shoestring budget, shocked Macedonia with two goals in the opening 10 minutes.

Daryl Sharpe and Craig Hill combined in the third minute for Hill to slam one past Craig Burchmore.

Before the dust in front of Bruchmore

could settle the combination of Sharpe and Hill struck again.

Harry Christodolou drew two defenders to push the ball wide to Sharpe who sent yet another through ball to Hill who made no mistake for the second goal.

Hill could have made it 3-0 in the 21st minute but his chip had too much 'juice' and went over the crossbar.

At the other end, Nigel Nofke denied Tony Caban after Paul Kay had made a break.

The home side managed to pull one back in the 31st minute through Fletcher and the stage looked set for a great onslaught by Wollongong Macedonia in the second

period.

Ian Shaw came on for Galloway, Jon McKie replaced Caban and Adam Sandu went on for John Cavanah, but to no avail as the visitors defended like Demons to retain their slender lead and win the group comfortably.

Brett Thornthwaite appeared set to score in the 57th as he faced an open goal, but like so many other opportunities in this half it went begging and Macedonia exited from the Cup.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Burchmore, Galloway (Shaw), Bourke, Wilson, Mears, Kay, Bradley, Cavanah (Sandy), Caban (McKie), Fletcher, Thornthwaite.

SUTHERLAND: Nofke, Carroll, Sellar, Ensor, Nelson, O'Shea, Parsons (Terry), Christodolou (Hutchison), Sharpe, McFadden, Hill (Loney).

Knight does it again!

STEVE Knight latched onto a loose ball inside Polonia's penalty area to net the only goal of the match and give Freshwater a deserved 1-0 victory last Saturday at Chopin Park.

It was the second time in three weeks that Knight has been the lone scorer in a match won by Freshwater.

While many may think it odd to have a defender responsible for scoring goals, it certainly does not surprise coach Ljubo Gojkovic.

"Anyone in my side is likely to notch a goal. No-one should have the sole responsibility of scoring goals. To be mobile, fit and eager to do well up front as well as in defence you have to have 10 players who can fill most positions in the team," said Gojkovic after watching his side beat Polonia.

"You will do well not to underestimate this team, that's my advice to everybody in the League," said Alex Anderson, Polonia's team manager, obviously impressed with the way Freshwater shaped up.

The win by the side from Sydney's north came after a corner-kick in the 14th minute. It was partially cleared by Bruce Thurlow; in came

Mark Cimarosti with his attempt but the ball fell loose for Knight to slam it into the net from just inside the area.

Polonia's short-passing game on a very wet pitch came unstuck a few times, while Freshwater's direct and far more purposeful tactics proved far more effective.

Hilton Philips was denied a goal almost on full-time after yet another through-ball saw the speedy striker one on one with the keeper. He was impeded on the 16-metre line by a defender, but managed to keep his feet only to see Thurlow make a fine diving save.

Dragan Pupovac at the other end had little to do, but when he was called into action he was superb.

Lesek Kulwicki must have thought he had the game squared with his power-laden free-kick in the 20th minute but Pupovac flung himself into the air to tip the ball over the bar.

Cimarosti and Hilton looked set to increase the score close to the end, but Cimarosti handled when he appeared set to provide Hilton with the easiest of chances.

POLONIA: Thurlow, Chou, Beamer, Robertson, Lesek, C. Thompson, Kulwicki, M. Pratt, Senol (O. Gomez), Janduda (Caruso), D. Pratt.

FRESHWATER: Pupovac, Pearce, Knight, McCue (sent off 65), Dean, Sutherland, Sharpe, Etherington, Phillips, Cimarosti, Stuart.

Fletcher tops!

Graeme Fletcher kept his fine record intact scoring yet again for Wollongong Macedonia to finish at the top of the goalscoring charts after the qualifying rounds in the NSW State Challenge Cup.

The following is the list of the top goal scorers after five rounds:

7. Fletcher (WM)
5. Kulwicki (P), Elphick (NA).
4. Lemezina (CC).
3. Perinovic (CC), Markovski, Dounis (RI), Brown (ME), Ackerley (A), Hill (S).
2. Sharpe, Cotton (S), Reis, Mazis (CC), Tonks, Bailey (NA), Genc, G.Cerro (ME), Knight (WF), Porter (RI).

1. Pratezina, Sermani (CC), Boogard (NA), Gonzalez, Farrugia, Callanan, Cabassi (ME), Watson, Segreto, Buchanan (RI), D. Pratt, Janic, Chou (P), Etherington, Cimarosti (WF), Keri, Millosourgis, Kalogeras (CM), Dragomirescu (A), Giampaolo, Carbone (IM), Kay, McKie, Sandy, Caban (WM), Bedoni, Moffett, Ortiz, Camburn (UP).

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Semi-finals at Melita

FOLLOWING an incredible series of events, Canberra Croatia have qualified for the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup 1989.

With virtually no apparent chance of reaching the semis, Canberra Croatia took Rockdale Ilinden apart last weekend to win by a clear margin of four goals and leapfrog their defeated opponents into second place in their group.

Then came an unexpected but hard-fought win by Sutherland over the much fancied Wollongong Macedonia, and Croatia were in the semi-finals!

Newcastle eroded some of Melita's confidence with a clear win at Melita Stadium to win Group B, while Avala lost to Uruguay Penrith to finish last in the same group.

Freshwater sauntered past Polonia at

Chopin Park to finish a creditable third in this group.

Results of the last round:

GROUP A:

Sutherland v Wollongong Macedonia 2-1; Canberra Croatia v Rockdale Ilinden 6-2; Canterbury Marrickville v Inter Monaro 0-0.

FINAL TABLE

SUTHERLAND SHIRE	5	4	1	0	10	-	5	1	3
CANBERRA CROATIA	5	3	0	2	12	-	1	0	9
Rockdale Ilinden	5	3	0	2	11	-	9	9	
Wollongong Macedonia	5	2	0	3	13	-	9	6	
Canterbury	5	1	1	3	3	-	9	4	
Inter Monaro	5	0	2	3	2	-	10	2	

GROUP B:

Newcastle Austral v Melita Eagles 3-1; Warringah Freshwater v Polonia 1-0; Uruguay Penrith v Avala 3-1.

FINAL TABLE

NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL	5	5	0	0	10	-	3	1	5
MELITA EAGLES	5	3	1	1	11	-	5	1	0
W. Freshwater	5	2	1	2	4	-	4	7	
Polonia	5	2	0	3	8	-	7	6	
Avala	5	1	0	4	5	-	12	3	
Uruguay	5	1	0	4	4	-	11	3	

Avala humbled

PENRITH Uruguay defeated Avala 3-1 at Melita Stadium to send shivers down the backs of the big-spending outfit from Cabramatta.

Apart from Constantin Dragomirescu and Vince Nastoski, the losers had little to cheer about.

Nastoski was in particularly dominant form but all the good work by the stylish midfielder went out of the window as his colleagues wasted every opening that came their way.

In the end, it was an own goal, an unfortunate back-pass, which went past Mike Berry that gave Avala its consolation goal.

Bruno Bedoni shocked Avala with an opportunist goal after a long throw-in from the right which eluded the Avala defenders in the 36th minute.

One minute into the second half, Mark Moffett brushed off the slow Avala defence to slot his shot past Woodhouse.

Bruno Volloder was impeded inside the penalty area in the 48th minute, and Chris Ortiz made no mistake from the resultant penalty kick.

Jorge Gonzalez put one into his own net in the 53rd but from then

on Uruguay soaked a lot of pressure to keep its two-goal lead with Berry making some fine saves.

URUGUAY PENRITH: Berry, George (sent off 71st), Montesdeoca, J. Gonzalez, Zulli, Zullo, Beddoni, Ortiz, Voloder, Benitez, Moffett.

AVALA: Rodic (Woodhouse), Quarby, Henderson, Atlagic (Rix), Brockbank, Nastoski, Ashton, Bogicevic, Menvielle, Ackerley (Fitzharris), Dragomirescu.

ACT BRIEFS

• Downer Olympic began training last week determined that its stay in the ACT League's second division will be a short one.

The club, one of the oldest in the competition, was relegated last season but is now planning to re-introduce incentive payments as a way of encouraging top players to come to the club.

Spokesman Don Rushan said an announcement over the appointment of a first-team coach could be expected shortly.

• Inter Monaro were interested in Tereti Nigara, a former Fijian international goalkeeper now a student at the CCAE.

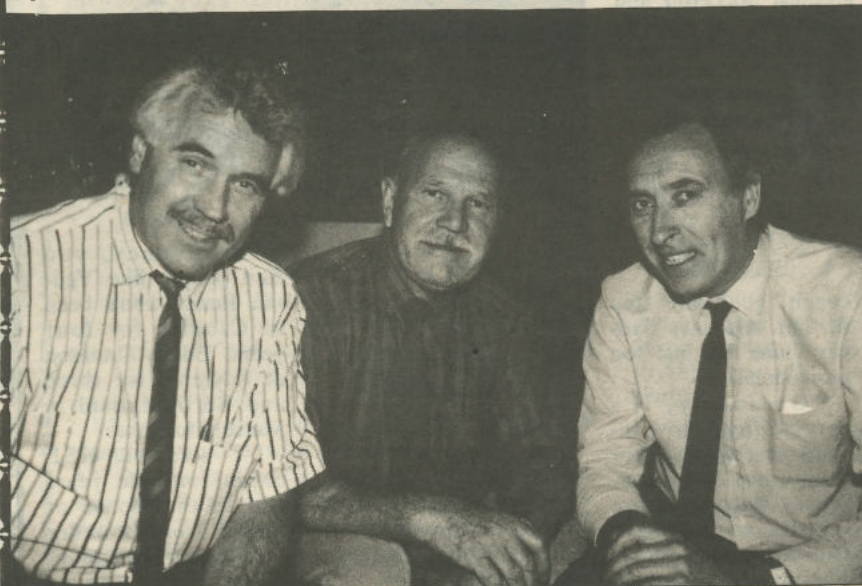
But Nigara, who joined the college last year and played a season of Australian rules, said he needed to concentrate on his studies.

ACT

City/Concordia merger

FROM GRAHAM COOKE

FIRST division ACT League club Canberra Concordia has joined forces with Canberra City from the second division — with the immediate aim of breaking into the top-four Ampol Cup competition at the end of this season.



Joining forces ... left to right, the president of the City Club, Neil Hummel, Concordia president Karl Schrimpf and the City Club's sports director, Alan Cringle.

But the merger is seen by many Soccer observers in the ACT as the first major step by the Soccer Club of Canberra, which operates the City Club licensed premises in the heart of Canberra, to get back into big-time Soccer.

The SCC ran Canberra's first National Soccer League entrant from the start of the NSL in 1977 to 1982 when rising costs forced it to sell.

The City Club has now recovered from this lean financial period and has been supporting a team in the ACT League for some seasons.

That team, bearing the name of the original NSL club, Canberra City, moved quickly through the ranks but in the last two years has become bogged down in the second division, narrowly losing in the promotion race on both occasions.

The merger with Concordia gives it a solid first-division base and, in the eyes of many, brings the day when it can once again challenge for the NSL a step closer.

Concordia president Karl Schrimpf said the committee and supporters were not getting any younger and it had been decided the merger was in the best interests of both clubs, and of Soccer generally in the ACT.

Following discussions between Concordia and City, The ACT Soccer Federation has approved the name 'Canberra City Concordia'. The combined club will play under the direction of Canberra City's coach of the last two seasons, Herbert Klempner, himself a former Concordia player.

Schrimpf said negotiations were continuing for the use of Narrabundah Oval, Concordia's traditional home ground.



Now the only first division representative in a large area which includes Kingston, Narrabundah, Red Hill and Woden, Concordia was formed on October 4, 1959 — the start of a long tradition of Soccer involving members of Canberra's German-speaking community.

While the club has had its ups and downs it has generally managed to remain at the forefront of the ACT competition, providing many top quality players to State representative teams.

There have been a number of name changes over the years — the last in 1986 from Concordia Philip to Concordia Canberra aimed at giving the club a wider identity.

City director Alan Cringle said Canberra City was clear of outstanding debts incurred during its NSL days and was now looking to become a force in the ACT first division.

"We see this merger as being an important step towards achieving that aim."

Schrimpf said the new club would field teams in divisions one, reserves, youth and six, with a women's team affiliated to the ACTWSA. It would

have the full backing of the Harmonie German Club and the City Club.

"Training will be at the former Canberra City ground at Bruce TAFE and everyone connected with the club is invited to a pre-season get together at the City Club at 7pm on March 13," he said.

Kick and rush...

INTER Monaro showed more purpose and played the better football, but failed to find the net and had to settle for a 0-0 draw against an unimaginative Canterbury at Seymour Shaw last Saturday afternoon.

Penetration was lacking from both teams. While Monaro were the more constructive, Canterbury rushed the ball and with the exception of some fine work by Hantzis, Pavlovic and Kalogeras, had little to offer.

This was a sub-standard game which did not do justice to the improving standards of the NSW State League.

Manuel Notaras was hardly extended in goal for Inter as Canterbury fumbled and stumbled, providing little if no life in attack.

And when chances came, nobody was able to convert them.

Sam Katovic could have opened the scoring after John Santolin

missed an easy clearance, but he hesitated and lost the ball.

Zoran Pavlovic raced some 70 metres to enter the area but his shot went wide in the 31st minute.

Kalogeras headed wide in the 51st and Steve Marinos missed a sitter in the 65th minute after good lead-up work by Andy Zervas.

At the other end, Attilio Carbone hit the post and Chris Hummell assured me that he touched the ball, otherwise it would have gone in in the 20th.

Peter Thompson scooped one over the bar from just six metres out, rushing his shot as did Craig Alchin with his volley.

Inter sadly missed Sebastian Giampaolo, detained at his brother's 21st birthday party, and Walter 'Platini' Valeri, who, surprisingly, opted to sit it out on the bench.

INTER MONARO: Notaras, T. Popovic, Monterosso, Santolin, Tittias, Carbone, Thompson, Brennan, Alchin (Arthur), Ambrosino, Janke.

CANTERBURY: Hummell, Papayothis (Marinos), Pavlovic, Vadarakis, Radman, Godzik, Zervas, Hantzis, Kalogeras, Oustambasidis, Katovic (Adamou).

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Pre-Season Challenge Cup

SEMI-FINALS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8

MELITA STADIUM

Sutherland Shire v Melita Eagles 6.45pm
Newcastle Austral v Canberra Croatia 8.30pm

FINAL

SATURDAY MARCH 11 MELITA STADIUM 6PM

NSW SECOND DIVISION SATURDAY MARCH 11

Campbelltown Vikings v Bankstown Bensley Road 6pm
Bathurst '75 v Fairy Meadow Utd Kelso Park 3pm
Dulwich Hill v Granville Chile St George Std Stadium 3pm
Sydney Macedonia v Mount Druitt Jensen Park 3pm
Orange Waratahs v Gladesville Hby Waratah S/Grd 6pm
SSC Yugal v Manly Warringah TBA

THURSDAY MARCH 16

Waverley SC v North Shore Utd Syd Athletic

See a top State League match this week!

Once proud Melbourne now taking an NSL backseat

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE clubs are down and on the outer again and local fans want to know why.

At this early stage of the NSL season, only big-spending Preston Makedonia and Melbourne Croatia are putting in token efforts to keep the southern capital represented in the top five.



But even now it seems clear that Marconi, Sydney Croatia and probably Sydney Olympic are set to dominate the league and leave Victoria out in the cold.

Last year, only South Melbourne Hellas flew the Melbourne flag in the finals and two successive defeats put the Middle Park side out of business in double-quick time.



The all-Sydney 1988 grand final proved once again that Melbourne, once the hub of Aussie Soccer, is falling behind.

And for the proud Vics that hurts.

Only twice have Victorian clubs won NSL titles, in 1984 and 1985 when the league was split into two divisions and South Melbourne followed by Brunswick Juventus triumphed.

But Sydney teams have virtually dominated the league since it kicked off in 1977, and Melbourne continues to flail away in the wake.

Even SA sides have chipped in with two titles and those figures never fail to rankle the Victorian clubs.

1989 is developing into another year for NSW glory as the Victorians continue to wallow in the also-ran class.

Why is this so?

We put that question to four prominent Victorian Soccer personalities and the answers may or may not be of some help to the struggling clubs south of the Murray.

Lack of depth, lack of money and instability seems to be the general consensus amongst our panel of experts.

Jim Rooney, probably Australia's

greatest Soccerroo and currently struggling Heidelberg's assistant



coach, goes one step further and says Sydney clubs are just too professional.

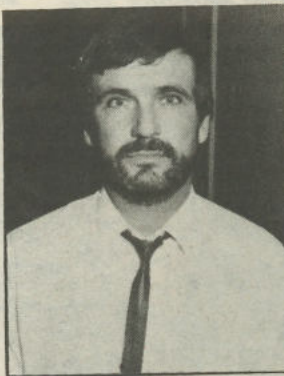
"Obviously, it's very difficult to pinpoint exactly why, but from what I've seen, Sydney clubs are more stable with their coaching and their administration and in general they are just more professional," Rooney told ASW.

"The crowds are bigger and the money generated through the clubs certainly helps, but to me clubs like Sydney Croatia, Sydney Olympic and Marconi just have a more professional outlook.

"It's not how rich a club is, but how that club is run."

Rooney says to be successful a club's administration must be strong and a good example of that is a George Cross where president Alf Zahra has reigned supreme for many years and has supported coach John Gardiner in his role.

Gardiner, the longest-serving of any



JOHN GARDINER

Victorian NSL coach, has kept what is basically a financially struggling club more than competitive in the National League for five years.

South Melbourne Hellas coach Brian Garvey was the only local boss to get a team into the 1988 finals but the Middle Park outfit has only struggled into 1989.



Garvey also believes it is the stability of the Sydney clubs which keeps them above the rest year after year.

He takes it a step further, pointing out that Marconi, Sydney Croatia and Sydney Olympic have all retained and added to their successful squads of last season.

Outspoken former Heidelberg, Hellas and Juventus boss Len McKendry remains to this day Melbourne's most successful NSL coach.

To him, NSL Soccer in 1989 is a "one-city game".

McKendry, who says he is no hurry to get back into the game which once so dominated his life, is pessimistic about the future.

"I often think that Victoria has had its day," he explained.

McKendry blames "club politics" for the destruction of his two champion teams — South Melbourne from 1984-86, and Heidelberg from 1980-82.



"Outside of John Gardiner at George Cross, there has been no stability with coaches and administration," he claims.

"Petty politics dominate the game down here.



"In Sydney, you find people like Vedran Rozic, who's been at Croatia for four years, Eddie Thomson at Olympic for three and Berti Mariani at Marconi for three.

"I was an NSL coach for nine years and in that space of time I worked under 11 different club presidents, only one of whom is still actively involved in the game!

"Nobody is given time to get a job done."

McKendry, who regularly visits Sydney, says there is little comparison between the two states.

He cites little or no ground development in Melbourne and a generally destructive media as other examples of why Victorian clubs continue to flounder.

Money is always going to be a problem for Victorian teams, particularly for the likes of George Cross which has struggled with financial hardship since moving into the NSL.



"With Sydney clubs, money just doesn't seem to be a problem," says Cross coach John Gardiner.

"New Zealand players and our best youth players always seem to end up in Sydney.

"For myself, the toughest part is that I just don't have the training facilities I'd like to have. Things are pretty ordinary and it really restricts us in terms of techniques, etc.

"I'd like to train players on four nights a week but it would be useless as things are.

"I guess that would be my biggest gripe."

Brian Garvey still maintains he needs more depth in his squad to compete with the Sydney clubs.

Again money is the problem.

So now we know the problems we'll have to get cracking on solving them.

I won't hold my breath waiting.

GEORGE PETROV

Proud Preston Captain

BY GREG BLAKE

IT speaks volumes for the ability of 23-year-old George Petrov that Preston Makedonia has named him skipper for 1989.

Particularly as he's captain of a team which boasts the likes of Steve Smith, Steve Jackson, Andrew Zinni and Warren Spink — all established NSL stars and potential leaders in their own right.

And when you consider Preston is looking a "certainty" to make the finals this year, the world is at Petrov's feet — or so it seems.

The only problem for the gritty midfielder is that he's hardly played a game this season!

he explained.

"We've got depth and competition for places and that's good for the club. Last time we were in the finals (in 1987), we only had 13 or 14 real first team players and we struggled if we had injuries.

"This year, if we can make the top five, or better still the top three, I think we've got an excellent chance of ending the domination of Marconi and Sydney Croatia.

"As for me, I'll get my place back if I earn it and at the moment I'm just concentrating on getting fit again."

Petrov says he was extremely proud to be named captain of the new-look Makedonia team, even if he did feel a little over-awed by the responsibility at



George Petrov (right) against Brunswick Juventus last season. In 1989 he's Preston's proud skipper.

An ankle injury sustained in a Dockerty Cup meeting with Clarinda late last year has meant Petrov has spent much of his first season as skipper watching from the sidelines as his club has charged into the top five.

"You bet I hate sitting on the bench," he says.

"It's the worst thing in the world". And with the team playing so well, now I'm worried about getting my place back."

Petrov, who played the first two games of the season before getting dropped, knows he has some catching up to do if he's to reclaim his place in the star-studded Makedonia line-up.

But typical of his determination, he's happy to just try to fight his way back.

"That's why the team is doing so well,"

first.

"But once you're out there and playing, you forget about that and just do the best job you can," he said.

"The lads are developing into a good team unit as they learn to play together and when we destroyed Melbourne Croatia recently (3-0) it was our best team performance of the season."

Petrov says the expectations around the club are high and only success will vindicate Preston's pre-season spending spree of nearly \$70,000.

And as skipper of the team, he's feeling the pinch.

"There's no pressure now because we're winning," he told ASW.

"But I know people will get on our back if things start to go wrong and they will look to me as captain."

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Indoor game

JAMES Hardie Industries will sponsor the Indoor Soccer League again this year.

This will be the fourth year that one of the nation's most prestigious corporations will back the national indoor league.

In other indoor developments, it is proposed to have an eight-team national ladies' league, and Auckland are tipped to join the men's national league this year.

While on the indoor scene, the senseless legal battle between the ASF and the AISF is over.

Finally, FIFA and FIFUSA, the respective world bodies, have settled their differences.

Unfortunately, it has cost the ASF a few bob.

Fighting the case, on FIFA's insistence, the ASF has withdrawn from the court case, costing it \$46,000.

In effect, the ASF were leant on by FIFA to stop outdoor players playing indoor and vice versa.

In other words, FIFA were trying to stop Australian sportsmen and women playing their sport.

The case never had a chance to succeed and it is regrettable that the ASF was drawn into a fight it could never win.

Particularly when it was a fight between the world bodies of FIFA and FIFUSA, not the ASF and the AISF.

At the close of the first FIFA World Championship for five-a-side football, representatives of FIFA and FIFUSA met in Zurich for talks.

The meeting was chaired by FIFA president Joao Havelange,

after which a document was signed relating to FIFUSA's integration into FIFA.

A working group, comprising representatives of both parties, has been assigned the task of drafting the corresponding requirements by December 1, 1989.

After the meeting in Zurich, both FIFA and FIFUSA declared their satisfaction with the present concordance.

Thankfully, after a costly and senseless dispute, it's now on with the game...

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

Arnie's a dinky-di

FRANK Arok calls him the "Ruud Gullit" of Australian football.

Team-mates tell you he's the first player they'd pick in their team.

The player himself simply says he's "a proud, dinky-di Aussie who's a determined fighter, hates playing badly and losing, plays it simple and scores a few goals".

While it is unfair to compare anyone with AC Milan's Dutch superstar Ruud Gullit, there is little doubt Sydney Croatia's 25-year-old Graham Arnold is the most complete all-rounder in the Soccerroo team.

In a role made famous 20 years ahead of his time by the legendary Alfredo Di Stefano of Real Madrid back in the sixties, and one that Gullit plays to perfection nowadays on the world stage, "Arnie" pops up everywhere on the field.

He attacks, defends, creates, destroys, participates in the build-up, sets up goal-scoring opportunities and scores more than his share.

Three incidents during the Soccerroos' last outing against Swedish champions Malmo clearly illustrate Arnold's contribution.

At 0-0, with goalkeeper Jeff Oliver beaten, Arnold heads clear of the Soccerroo goal line — a goal saved.

Minutes later, he bursts through the Malmo defence to score a splendid goal — a goal scored.

In the second half, a skilful flick puts Paul Trimboli through to score the Soccerroos' third goal — a goal made.

According to Arok, Arnold is a "rarity in football".

"He is the complete all-round player who always has a big influence on the outcome of any game," says Arok.

Arnold has grown in stature since being drafted into the Soccerroo squad in 1985 as an understudy to skipper John Kosmina.

His early Soccerroo outings earned him the nickname "goal-a-game Arnie".

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Arnold has resisted many offers to play professionally in Europe.

Like most Soccerroo regulars Arnold, a carpenter by profession, has been unable to hold down a full-time job for the past three years.

Instead, he's finishing building the family home in Sydney's southern suburbs and helping Sydney Croatia towards the national title.

And, in good form, contributing more than most towards Soccerroo success over New Zealand and Israel in the coming weeks.



Cosmetic

AS manager-coach of St George back in 1974/75, I was intimately involved with a small group of forward thinkers trying to sell a National League concept to the vast majority of non-believers in the Australian football fraternity.

Today, many of those non-believers are among those who administer and run the same National League they so strongly opposed in those early days.

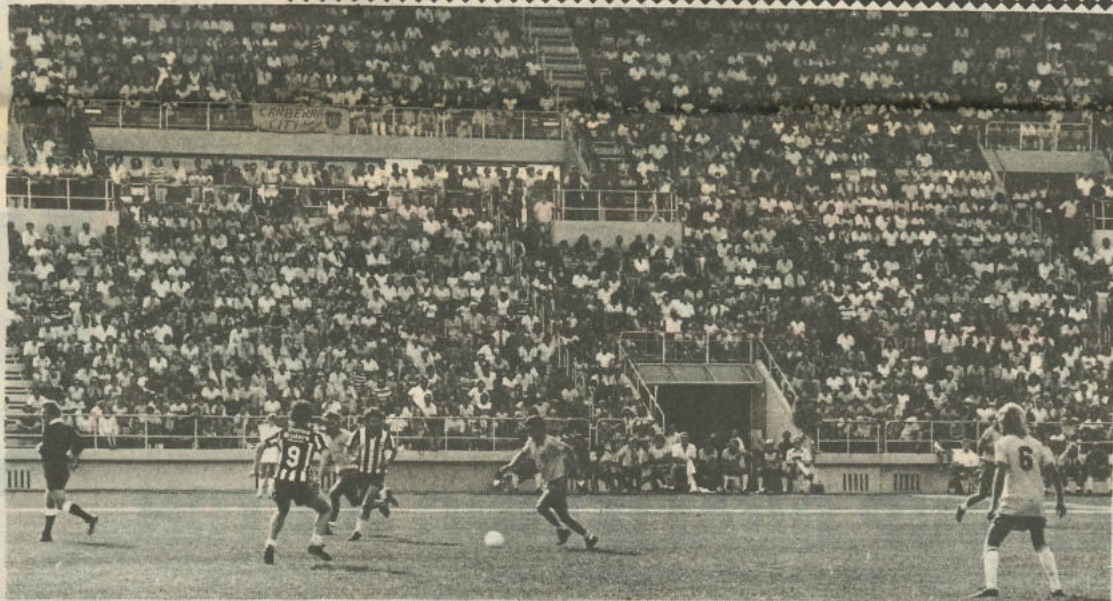
Then, and in fact in the first few years of the national competition, the goals were positive — a truly National League with

major city-backed teams, a gradual "Australianisation" of the game and an emphasis on quality spectator and playing facilities.

Incidents of recent weeks strongly indicate the National League has failed on all levels.

Canberra and Newcastle, models of what the game should have been in this country with their multi-cultural support, were both uncereemoniously given the boot.

The NSL, far from "Australianising" its game, has withdrawn to the security of its narrow, short-term, ethnic base — and has and will pay the price for its cosmetic approach to the game's problems.



Bruce Stadium — those were the great years for ACT Soccer.

Stadium Shame

ONE of the major reasons football in this country doesn't get a fair deal is that we seldom, if ever, fight for our rights.

The imminent loss of Bruce Stadium, Canberra, to the Canberra Raiders rugby league team will mean the loss of one of our finest, if not finest, football facility.

To their great credit, and Australian football's shame, the Little Athletics Association of the ACT is fighting the conversion of Bruce.

Petitions containing over 5000 signatures of people against the removal of the athletics track to allow Can-

berra Raiders rugby league team to use the stadium by 1990 have been forwarded for presentation to Federal Parliament.

ACT athletics supporters believe that there is a substantial groundswell of support in Canberra to keep the track facilities intact and they have been flooded with phone calls offering support as Canberra people realise that their taxes will pay for conversion and upkeep and that a fine facility is about to be destroyed.

Meanwhile, not a whisper from the footballing fraternity...

Shame, shame, shame.

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Playle's further year with Glasgow Rangers

BY GREG RUSSELL

FORMER Queensland youth player Scott Playle has had his contract renewed with Scottish giants, Glasgow Rangers.

Playle, 19, a former Eastern Suburbs XXXX League player and Rochdale junior, is in his second season with the Scottish club and now has signed a contract for a further 12 months with an option on the following year.

The young defender's immediate future at Ibrox was secured after he became a little concerned about his chances of making a success in Britain and contacted his former Easts coach John Sime.

"Scott was not sure where he was going with the club, so I told him to have a talk to Graeme Souness (the Rangers manager)," Sime said. "They obviously don't want to lose him as is evident by the contract."

Sime was instrumental in Playle gaining his initial breakthrough with Rangers.

Through his Scottish football contacts, the Tigers' coach organised a trial for an outstanding Easts



Scott Playle ... 1 year + option

youngster. Playle was the first to be awarded the club scholarship and made the most of his chance when he trialled with Rangers three years ago.

The trial turned into an extended stay in which Playle cemented a place in the Rangers

Reserve side. After a bout of home sickness, and a subsequent form slump, Playle was advised by club officials to head back to Australia to refresh.

Playle resumed playing with Easts in the XXXX League and remained uncer-

tain over his future. But last June he received a call from Rangers assistant coach Walter Smith to report back for club training.

He was offered a one year contract and seemingly has done enough again this season to warrant a further extension.

Playle intends coming home again for an off-season break, but is unlikely to play during his six-week holiday in Brisbane.

His parents, Ray and Sandra Playle, are delighted their determined son has gained another one year contract. "The extra time will give him a chance to push for first team selection," Mrs Playle said.

While Playle was the first Easts youngster to gain a opportunity to fully explore his potential, he is unlikely to be the last exciting young prospect to be polished initially at Heath Park.

Easts have again this season extended their claws into the Queensland country areas, and are set to give another crop of



youngsters a chance to further their footballing careers.

Last season Easts gave former Townsville teenager Craig Collins an opportunity and he became the youngest player in over a decade to win Brisbane representative honors.



GRAEME SOUNESS

This season's crop of country signings include former State youth player, Paul Petersen, who stood out in North Queensland's brave Ampol Cup run last season.

Other "Country Kids" at Heath Park include Mackay's Malcolm Stanley and Richard Nicol. "We're prepared to give these kids a chance and I think that's what it's all about," said Easts media liaison officer, Bill Roberts.

ISRAEL WINS OPENER 1-0

LAST Sunday's Oceania World Cup qualifier in Tel Aviv went according to form.

Israel downed New Zealand 1-0 in front of 40,000 spectators with a 10th minute goal by Ron Rosenthal.

Australian coach Frank Arok watched the game and came home — on the same plane as returning Soccer captain Charlie Yankos and the All Whites — convinced his team could overcome both opponents.

Arok was impressed with the Israeli defensive duo of Avi Cohen and David Pizanti.

He also praised New Zealand for their stout defence.

It is obvious that coach John Adshead had done his homework during his two-week stay in England prior to the match.

Israel created many more chances than New Zealand last Sunday, but Rosenthal missed a couple of sitters, as did Eli Ohana, the Mechelen star, who will be a big factor when Australia plays in Tel Aviv on March 19.

The All Whites



ELI OHANA

were able to field Swiss-based Wynton Rufer and Ceri Evans from Oxford United — both of whom are likely to miss Sunday's match against the Soccerroos.

Frank Arok expects New Zealand to play their usual game against his team, fielding a reinforced defence and only mounting the occasional breakaway.

On the strength of the Tel Aviv result, it seems that Australia and Israel will fight it out for first place in the group, with New Zealand the outsiders capable of upsetting the apple cart at least once — hopefully against Israel in Auckland on April 9.

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Australian Institute of Sport coach Ron Smith would like to see a mid-week competition involving the AIS, Canberra Croatia, Inter Monaro and some of the leading ACT League clubs.

"I think it could only be good for Soccer in the area, and I am making inquiries to see if we can attract some sponsorship," he said.

"If there was prize-money, I am sure we could raise the status of the competition and get a lot of clubs interested."



RON SMITH

Such a competition has two obvious benefits. The profile of the AIS would be lifted in its home base — something very much needed after the 'lost' 1988 season when it played all its matches in Sydney — and there would be extra competitive games for ACT League clubs who are complaining that their eight-team, two-round premiership makes the season too short.

Melbourne JUST has lined up two guest players for later this season thanks to its former coach Drago Sekularac.

"Seki", who coached JUST in 1986-87 and is currently in charge at Red Star Belgrade, will release Valdo Stosic and Ilija Najdoski to JUST for a 10-week stay beginning in April.

NSL rules stipulate guest players cannot be used in the final six games of the season, thus limiting the stays of both players even though Sekularac was willing to release both for the remainder of the year.

24-year-old midfielder Stosic is an old favourite of JUST fans, having played for a season at the club in 1986.

Najdoski is a defender.

South Melbourne Hellas boss Brian Garvey has vowed to make any changes necessary to his team to rekindle the enthusiasm of 1988 and lift the club out of the bottom half of the table.

After a second successive pre-season Buffalo Cup win, South Melbourne has struggled to recapture its league form of last year and Garvey is concerned.

"The enthusiasm and team spirit of last season just isn't there at the moment", he says.

Garvey blames too much Soccer on the slump in form of some of his players and will be looking for "fresh legs" to bolster the team.

Paul Fernandes, Damian Mori, Bill Tsiakos, Steve Tasios, Peter Tsolakis and Kim Taliadoros are some of the names likely to get a first team chance in the weeks ahead.

Brunswick Juventus midfielder star Scott Patterson will remain with the club for its 1989 Victorian State League year after failing to come to terms with NSL outfits Sunshine George Cross and Melbourne JUST.



Patterson becomes the ninth experienced NSL player to remain with Juventus which was relegated from the national league after a dismal 1988.

AFTER being on the outer since Greek club PAOK changed coaches, CHARLIE YANKOS won selection again and was voted player of the match in the 0-0 draw with Panionios.

John Anastasiadis returned to the side in the same game, coming on as a 60th minute substitute.



NATIONAL under 16 coach Vic Dalgleish will have the chance to further refine his squad in preparation for the World under 16 championships in Scotland in June.

A camp will commence on Saturday, March 25 and cover the Easter weekend at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Included will be a maximum of 25 players; the 18 who were in the last camp at Parklea and a further seven hopefuls.

Although there was plenty of press cover for an irate spectator's attack on referee Arthur Owens at the Gabbie Stadium, local club officials were extremely happy with the friendly attitude that prevailed between both sets of fans on the day.

National League coaches and referees are expected to meet shortly. The aim is to discuss matters of concern to ensure a better understanding of application of the rules.

BLENDING city and country is vital if Soccer is to continue to progress at the desired rate.

Newcastle Austral, the ambitious NSW First Division club, blends local products with other country players.

David Bowen joined the club from Lake Albert Rovers at Wagga Wagga. Goalkeeper Craig Carter came from Maitland.

Steve Bland started at Edgeworth in Newcastle, returning after a five-year spell as a teacher in South Western NSW.

Soccer "outcast" George Kalogeros is seeking a release from Heidelberg after only a month at his new club.

Kalogeros, who bought out his own contract at South Melbourne Hellas in February and signed for the Bergers a week later, believes he is wasting his time at Olympic Village.

Kalogeros doesn't believe he fits into the plans of Heidelberg coach Jim Tansey who has told him that he cannot find a place for him unless other players were serving suspensions or were injured.

Heidelberg team manager Jim Kriaris said he was sorry to lose Kalogeros but confirmed that there would be little chance for Kalogeros to play with new signings John Stewart and Peter Tredinnick now in the squad and vying for midfield places.



Long-time Newcastle favourite and current Newcastle Austral captain Howie Tredinnick and his wife Michelle are now the proud parents of a baby girl, Bethany Gai, born February 24 at Western Suburbs Hospital, Newcastle 6½ lb (3kg) 49cm.

It is reported that Bethany Gai has long hair — probably more than her father!

WOLLONGONG CITY coach John Fleming reckons that striker Randell Easthorpe has perked up since winning his place in the extended national squad.

"He was always capable of scoring, but now he is converting a higher proportion of the limited number of chances he is securing," explained Fleming.

Preston Makedonia's current six-game undefeated spell is the club's best run since late 1987 when it went six games without loss and finished runner-up in the championship to Apia.

The Makedonia crew, currently boasting one of the most impressive squads in the league, are hoping to go one better this season by topping that six-game run and then going on to lift the title.

Melbourne Croatia's move to Somers Street has lifted its support in dramatic fashion.

In just three home games, Croatia's crowd average has lifted to above 5,000 per game compared to an average of just over 1,700 a home game at Olympic Park last year.

Heidelberg's bid to move from the NSL basement received another boost last week with the news that Scottish club East Fife will release defender Paul McDowell to the club.

McDowell, the 21-year-old brother of Soccerroo Garry, will join the Bergers as soon as a visa vacancy is created.

That spot will become open in the next few weeks with the impending transfer of Andy O'Dell to a State League club.

The Bergers, who are still trying to negotiate a deal to bring Garry McDowell from Juventus, have sold John Dowie to Albion and have also transfer-listed Arthur Patiniotis and Con Pappas.



Garry McDowell

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Adelaide City kept Bugy Nyskohus out of its side to face Wollongong so he could play his 300th NSL game in Adelaide this weekend against Sydney Olympic.

"It only was fitting we let Bugy reach this milestone in front of his home fans," said coach Zoran Matic.

The appointment of a new Queensland Soccer Federation director may not be too far off.

Nine hopefuls from an original list of more than 40 applicants were interviewed at Perry Park last weekend and the QSF management committee interviewing panel is expected to make its final choice this week.

The process of finding a replacement for Alan Vessey, who left last year to run the ASF office, had been a lengthy one. The matter was elongated when Craig McLatchy pulled out only days before he was to be announced as the new QSF executive director prior to last December's annual general meeting.

The Christmas-New Year break interrupted any immediate recalling of applicants and the position was readvertised in January.

New QSF president Wal Dann believes the wait will be worthwhile as he has been impressed by the standard of applicants. "We have talked to some very qualified people, and not all of them are from Soccer backgrounds," he said.

"But that certainly is not a necessity, and I feel sure the person we eventually appoint will be ideally suited to the task we have outlined."

With QSF secretary Jim Gilbert running the QSF office since Vessey's departure, the executive director's job specification has been slightly altered to when originally advertised last year.

Gilbert's expertise in the footballing side of administration, which has come to the fore over recent months, has prompted the management committee to permanently allocate those affairs to his portfolio.

The new executive director will now concentrate more on the promotion and marketing of the game.

"In structuring the two jobs this way, I think we will get the best of both worlds," Dann said.

TONY PEZZANO is enjoying his football this year. He's one of the few NSL players captaining his club from the goalkeeper's position.

MANCHESTER United defender Vivian Anderson escaped with a reprimand from the English FA after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute for the second time this season.



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Dismissed players substituted!

Irregular sinbin arrangement in trial

TWO leading Queensland XXXX League clubs and a top referee are likely to be given severe reprimands after a trial match bungle last week.

Brisbane City and Olympic United, several of their players, and referee Mario de Costa, appear to have escaped more serious disciplinary action because their well-intentioned but completely unofficial participation in the trial left it difficult for authorities to act.

The Spencer Park trial, which Brisbane City won 3-2, came to notice when an afternoon newspaper report revealed four players had been sent-off.

The report also revealed that three of them had been substituted, but then returned to the park later in the match.

That technically constituted a sin-bin arrangement which is outlawed by FIFA.

A questioning of the ability of the three dismissed City players to participate in the following Wednesday's official XXXX pre-season tournament quarter-finals added a further twist to the drama.

The ensuing investigations by the QSRF and QSF were to highlight the entire unofficial nature of the match.

The QSF was to discover no official documentation asking for sanctioning of the trial could be found while the QSRF had no official appointment of de Costa to the game.

It is understood he agreed to "help out" when the host club advised him they had

no match referee.

But the game turned sour and de Costa allegedly suggested City's Kieran Cooper, Roddy Vasquez and Glenn Archer and Olympic's Nick Moric leave the field "to cool down".

While the practice of referees advising coaches to substitute troublesome players to avoid a send-off is commonplace in trial games, QSRF secretary Gordon Nicholson confirmed "it is extremely unusual for players to be allowed back into the match".

To allow them back is to operate a sin bin, which QSRF president Roger Marshall said was not permitted "because there is no provision for a sin-bin in the rules of the game".

"I don't think it matters whether a game is a fixture or a trial, it should always be played according to the rules," he said.

As de Costa did not consider the player departures as send-offs, and just responsible trial game substitutions, he didn't submit reports to the QSF. And without send-off reports, the QSF was powerless to cite any players before the disciplinary.

QSF secretary Jim Gilbert admitted the whole incident had become very confusing and irregular.

"Both these clubs should have known better. They are supposed to be among the top 12 clubs in the state and certainly



Roddy Vasquez challenging goalkeeper Clint Gosling way back in 1983.

now the rules," Gilbert said.

It is understood the QSF management committee sought a report of the incident and was expected to warn the club of the potential risks of playing unsanctioned trials.

And de Costa appears to be an innocent party, caught in the middle of the affair, but still likely to be asked to explain his action to the referees' management committee.

One who spoke in de Costa's favor was City coach Matt Carson, who after the game blasted his own

players for their lack of self discipline.

"I thought the referee showed a lot of commensurate in the way he handled the match," Carson said.

But it was Gilbert who had the final word. "The whole thing has probably been blown a little out of proportion, but I think it is a very valid lesson from which every club, player and official can learn," he said.

"Rules and match procedures are there for a reason and everyone should abide by them."

Gerritsen, Scanlan aid Taringa

TARINGA Rovers could be the darkhorses for success in Queensland this year.

The club which at best in the past has never finished better than mid-table cruised into the XXXX pre-season tournament quarter-finals with a game to spare. More significantly, the club has demonstrated that it has bought very astutely this season.

Heading the list of new Rovers is Brisbane representative and former Queensland youth representative Michael Gerritsen.

The former Croatia midfielder made his debut for Taringa after being snapped up when an appeal reduced his transfer fee from \$4000 to \$2700.

He slotted easily into the Taringa midfield and looks to be a fine foil for the club's other leading signing, midfielder Mark Bennett.

Bennett, an Englishman who played with Darwin in the

Lancashire League, showed all the qualities of an accomplished player in his debut and despite his diminutive stature, could finish the season as a big name in XXXX League.

Another new face in the Taringa side, although certainly well known in Queensland Soccer, is goalkeeper Tony Scanlan.

Scanlan, a former Queensland and Brisbane Lions NSL player, has been out of the game for several seasons because of business commitments. But he has returned to the field and a brilliant save from point blank range late in the game against Olympic United showed he had lost none of his keeping expertise.

Taringa's depth also has been boosted by the signing of talented young Mount Gravatt defender Domenic Tonel and his former

Hawks club mate John Kowtan, an ex-Brisbane City NSLer who has been overseas for several years.

The new faces have injected exciting depth to the list of Taringa stalwarts which already included some promising players.

Greg Swadling was wasted at leftback last season and now with Tonel in the squad he can be released to go forward where he is most effective.

Strikers Jarrod Austin and Mark Gilroy and sweeper Mick Savage are others likely to have strong seasons against this year.

With the club celebrating its 40th anniversary, there is a quiet air of confidence at Speare Park.

"It's not making any big predictions just yet," said coach Glenn Davis. "We'll be making all our big noise on the park."

QSF preserves the Perry Park surface

THE Queensland Soccer Federation last week made a tough decision for which it could be rewarded later in the season.

The QSF called off its first round of quarter-finals in the XXXX pre-season tournament after two days of intermittent, and at times heavy, rain at Perry Park.

The postponement, on the afternoon of the matches, caused minor inconvenience but is certain to be welcomed at the end of the year when the Perry Park playing surface finally reflects its stature as Soccer headquarters.

In the past the Perry Park pitch has been soundly criticised during the finals. Last year the conditions were woeful with the field dotted by a number of rough bumpy dustbowl. They had been created when a pre-season match went ahead after a thunderstorm.

"There is no way we were going to let that happen again," said QSF secretary Jim Gilbert who announced the quarter-finals postponement after inspecting the field with referees.

"The grass was very long and the water didn't show, but you only had to walk into the park and there was nearly an inch of water

at ground level," he said.

"The field would surely have been ruined if the games went ahead.

"The rescheduling of the matches will probably cause some inconvenience and match congestions for some teams, but I am sure they will agree it will be worth it in the long run if the field is still in good shape come the finals."

The QSF has spent considerable money in attempting to restore Perry Park to its once previous proud standing as among the best surfaces in the state.

A re-grassing programme initiated by former QSF president Ian Brusasco two years ago, showed only limited success in the first year — but that was expected.

The newly planted Kikuya, which has a hardiness and regrowth rate much better suited to Queensland's winter climate, has taken on in considerable patches this season under the meticulous care and attention of groundsman Des Miles.

By next year Miles expects the Kikuya

could approach a 50 percent coverage and then could quickly dominate in the following growing periods.

"Barring a complete ban of matches for 12 months, the improvements in the upgrading of the field can only be expected to be gradual," Gilbert said.

"But we have to give the new grass a chance and playing on a rain-sodden pitch would be setting the growth process back months."

The washed out quarter-finals were expected to be played last Monday.

Star Players aid Mal Bland clinics

NEW Brisbane director of coaching Mal Bland has set himself a target of making contact with 1000 juniors in his first series of clinics.

And the former New Zealand international is well on the way to reaching his aim after a record-breaking opening at Pine Rivers.

More than 230 youngsters turned out for the clinic, which was the first of four to be held in Brisbane over the coming weeks. The response even staggered the most experienced of junior officials.

"It's one of the greatest responses I've ever seen," said Brisbane North and Districts Junior Soccer Association president, Mr Leigh Scott.

With the assistance of a string of XXXX League players including Michael Mulvey (Mount Gravatt), Mark Greer, Justin Kilshaw, Noel Lord and Ken Swan (North Star), Anthony Sommerville and John Wilson

(Grange Thistle) and Brian Hewitt and John Cartwright (Pine Rivers), the youngsters were given constructive direction on the basics of the game.

"The kids were fantastic, they were just so willing to listen and learn," Bland said.

While every child attending the clinic received a pair of shinguards, the day proved extra special for Caboolture goalkeeper Trent Phillipson, who won a \$100 pair of gloves for showing outstanding commit-

ment and attitude at the clinic.

Another clinic was held at Annerley last weekend and others are planned for Toowong (March 11) and Lions (March 18).

Anyone wishing to attend the remaining clinics should contact their clubs, who have details.

In other news, Brisbane North will field 12 more teams this season than last year.

The revival comes after several years of limited growth and at times even stability.

DID YOU KNOW?

— That double-headers were regularly staged, and attracted big crowds, in the early days of the NSW Federation?

Crowd in excess of 15,000 were common at Sydney First Division double-header at the old Sports Ground or at Wentworth Park in the late 50s and early 1960s.

VSF



Juventus starts purgatory with unconvincing win

BY ANGELO STICCA

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS started off the new season on the wrong foot when Croydon surprised the black and whites with some fine team play which led to Steve Brimmer scoring in the 14th minute when a offensive error allowed him to shoot past a diving Peter Laumets.

Juventus hit back with glimpses of often outstanding midfield work through the skills of Rino Minichello.

However, it was a defensive error which allowed Juve's Willie Herd to intercept a backpass and put the ball into an empty net to equalise and leave

the scores level at half-time.

After only one minute of the second half, Brunswick took the lead when Michel-lo scored an amazing individual goal, dribbling past four defenders before coolly slotting the ball past a despairing Croydon keeper.

Juventus had finally hit their stride, and for the remainder of the match the defense of Croydon did well to prevent them from adding to the score which remained 2-1 at the final whistle.

Both sides were shining, with some of the best players in Victorian Soccer and despite the result, Croydon will be a threat to Juventus as the two pre-season championship favourites strive for the

championship.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, P. Della Rocca, S. Ivanovski, V. Belle, S. Lane, Witterd, S. Patterson, C. Egan, R. Minichello, D. Klepac.

CROYDON CITY: Runje, Langsbury, Roodhouse, Dobson, Brack, Brown, Quigley, Gabrielson, Humble, Van Egmond, Brimmer.

Ringwood-Frankston Pines 3-3

Frankston Pines, making its return to State League Soccer, celebrated with a well-earned away point.

In the dying minutes of what had been a dull first half, Frankston took the lead when Watson scored a well-taken goal.

If the first half had been dull, then the second period made up for the first with five goals being scored.

After six minutes,

Davy, of Ringwood, scored after a long throw from Cocker, but almost immediately the Pines hit back with goals by Sweeney and Sturton.

With less than 20 minutes left, Kennedy struck for Ringwood to make it 2-3 for the home team, and it was another Davy goal which settled the issue at 3-3.

RINGWOOD CITY: Blackley, Wenyss, McGuigan, Cumming, Kennedy, May, Castillo, McGuire, Cocker, Davy, Corvan.

FRANKSTON PINES: Kiss, McDonach, Ferris, Watson, Olinocky, Dick, Irvine, McMinimee, Sweeney, Miller, Sturton.

Thomastown-St Albans 1-0

Two of last season's stronger performers, Thomastown and St Albans, fought out a dogged affair in mid-30-degree heat, with Thomastown coming out on top thanks to a goal by Kevin Carfora

in the 20th minute of the first half.

With the welcome return of Mauro Raponi to the Thomastown goalkeeping position, Thomastown was able to hold out a determined St Albans side which peppered the Thomastown goal, only to be consistently denied by the in-form Raponi.

Thomastown took the lead when a throw-in by Pianalto was flicked on for Carfora to nod the ball into the back of the net.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi, Mihailidis, Mihos, Pianalto, Higgins, Athersych, Carfora, Dogherty, McMillan, DIMartino, Sinclair.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Simovic, Macasevic, Bozic, Colina, Kuzman, Rastocic, Moro, Kuperesik, Dezic, Gagula.

Green Gully-Springvale 1-0

Green Gully kicked off the new season with a tough match against Springvale City in hot and uncomfortable conditions.

In a game where Gus McLeod's team was happy to come away with a point, it was an 85th minute goal by Farquarson for Green Gully which finally secured the two points for Willie Vassale's side.

A long clearing kick was controlled by Mark Wilson, of Gully, whose shot was parried by Brian into the path of Farquarson who put the ball into the back of the net.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Napoli, Grismoud, Wilson, McMillan, McLennan, Cutler, Bailey, Smart, Farquarson, Chetcuti.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Brian, Whyte, Brydon, Blesinger, Reilly, Kral, Bell, Armstrong, Verechla, Livingston, Vitriti, Vogel, Hermos.

Morwell-Altona Gate 1-0

A goal three minutes from full-time proved to be the all-important winner as Morwell Falcons recorded a home victory over newly promoted Altona Gate.

After an even first half, it was Altona Gate who began the second half as the stronger team, with Ristovski coming close

to scoring on a number of occasions.

Falcons were kept in the match when a penalty kick to Altona was awarded for a foul on Kebakoski, but was well saved by goalkeeper Reynolds from the kick taken by McMullin.

Morwell finally secured the two points when a beautiful cross from Doyle found Basara who headed the ball past the keeper and into the net.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Bingham, Byrne, R. Walsh, E. Bruns, J. Doyle, J. Sokoluk, J. McBride, J. Nelson, Cassar, P. Gotis, A. Gotis.

ALTONA GATE: Lee, Illoski, Momirovski, Markovski, Byrne, Nicoski, Kebakoski, Asumoski, Georgeski, McMullin, Kistovski.

Bulleen-Caulfield 2-1

Bulleen in only its second season in State League showed its improvement against Caulfield.

Without major team re-shuffling, Bulleen took control and their veterans, Zdravko Lujic and Andy Bozikas, scored the goals in the 19th and 55th minutes.

With 15 minutes to go, Caulfield was awarded a somewhat controversial penalty which was converted by Filipou.

Despite constant pressure, Bulleen was able to hold out for the last 15 minutes to come away with two hard-earned points.

BULLEEN: Contini, Marson, Ruccia, Curulli, Kracic, Livingstone, Trogrlic, Angele, Bozikas, Milosevic, Lujic.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjed, Bitsonis, Koutouri, Fattore, Theoharous, Filipou, Drakeford, Baldwin, Aretis, Deligiannis, Zolotarev.

Box Hill-Northcote 2-1

Box Hill breathed a sigh of relief at the final whistle.

A final flurry by Northcote almost got it back into the game, only to be thwarted by a string of fine saves from John McInley.

McAleer had given the Hillmen a lead on the half hour with Martin Woodall equalising for Northcote five minutes later.

The winner came 15



PETER LAUMETS

minutes from time, from the penalty spot by Stuart McArthur after a dubious decision when Julian Thomas was upended in the area.

BOX HILL: McInley, McMorrow, Dimitrios, McCleod, Cooper, McArthur, Hanley, Kennedy, Thomas McAleer, Egan.

NORTHCOTE CITY: Turillia, Leonardis, Constantinou, Harris, Kormenos, Bekiaris, Woodall, Palmarciotti, J. Constantinou, C. Gilder, P. Constantinou.

Polonia-Fawknner 1-1

After a somewhat large clear-out of players, Fawknner Azzurri took on Polonia with an almost completely new team to that of last season's.

Fawknner took the lead in the 59th minute when Frank Sabatino scored a screamer of a goal when his 25 metre shot found the top corner of the net.

The lead was, however, shortlived as Polonia hit back almost immediately when a controversial decision saw Polonia awarded a penalty which Bonk duly converted.

Throughout the match Polonia appeared the more aggressive and determined of the two sides, but at the final whistle the points were shared.

FAWKNER: Barba, Tabacco, Cosentino, Schipano, Faria, Petrica, Sabatino, Soumelidis, Tuffled, Stenson, Ferrer.

POLONIA: Kostrzewa, Roksandic, Farrugia, Bilcharz, Innes, Bellegrinos, Watson, Chapnik, Bonk, De Bono.

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The State Story

Alan Clark reviews the Soccer scene in . . . SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Arezina Wanted

Campbelltown has shown interest in Modbury's want-away striker Djuro Arezina.

The chunky marksman joined the club last year from Beograd but has been unsettled this year so far.

★★★

Former Birkalla Eagles powerhouse striker Brian McNeill is back in Australia from his native Scotland.

He is interesting Lion.

★★★

State midfield star Jimmy Keramidas made a welcome return for Hellas in its Ampol Cup semi-final defeat by Croatia.

The quicksilver player has been sidelined for a lengthy spell with a groin com-

plaint.

Meanwhile, Hellas team manager Peter Nittos has refuted claims veteran midfielder Bobby Tuffs will leave the club for Lion.

He said Tuffs was a registered and required Hellas player.

★★★

Beograd coach John Nyskohus is determined to see the side back in the First Division next year.

And he has gone to his old club Cumberland, also relegated last season, for help.

'Nysko' has fixed up defender John Hood and midfielder ace Brian Welsh from the Foxes and is chasing striker Colin Ford who has returned from an extended NT stay.

★★★

Shock Ampol Final

BIRKALLA Eagles and Croatia are shock rivals in tonight's (Wednesday) Ampol Cup final at Hindmarsh.

They reached the final of the popular night series with shock wins last week.

Croatia lost four top players to Hellas in the close season but outclassed that previously unbeaten side 3-0.

Birkalla, which is enjoying a new, professional approach under coach Neil McGachey, beat Adelaide City, complete with seven NSL men, 2-0.

They now should stage a thrilling final.

The match is filled with promise.

Birkalla have never won the night series while Croatia's last success was in 1961.

Both sides have attacks of real potential, though Birkalla will be weakened by the absence of Steve McNally.

He was sent off late in the semi-finals for kicking City's Aurelio Vidmar.

Eddie Briscoe and Gary Price, though, will fly high for the Eagles and in Steve Witwicki, Paul Blute and Ante Ljubic Croatia have mark-

men of the highest quality.



Polonia Adelaide's Koza (left) in combat with Croatia Adelaide's Steve Witwicki.

Ljubic and Blute scored for Croatia, against Hellas with the third goal coming through former Croatia captain, coach Zoran Maricic.

He deflected a hefty clearance from goalkeeper Howie Jacques past David Miller in the Hellas goal.

Birkalla, with former Australian Player of the Year Graham Honeyman starring at

sweeper and Paul Higgins and Terry Hayes dominant in midfield, might just have the edge.

But rebuilt, young Croatia are playing with irresistible purpose.

Their confidence is high and with the backing of their colourful and vocal fans they could creep in for victory.

BLACKWOOD SEEKS PROMOTION

IMPRESSIVE pre-season trial performances and a blossoming squad has encouraged promotion thoughts at Blackwood.

Coach Tommy Preston and assistant Arthur Rutledge know the step up is a long way off yet but they are encouraged by moves so far at the Hills club.

Former Hellas men, brothers Tom and Peter Forde, will be back in harness again and Blackwood has welcomed Steve Ward from Port Pirie Virtus,

Dave McOmish from Whyalla Wanderers and Pat Dinan, Cumberland.

Peter Posikes is there after spells with Hellas and Asteras and young Con Stefanopoulos is impressing.

"We are starting to get a good blend of experience and youth and we definitely are looking to get promotion this year from what promises to be a very competitive Second Division."

Seaford has welcomed back Bob Telfer Medal winner Gordon Costello from a memorable holiday in

Scotland.

The Second Division's Best and Fairest last season has resigned with the Surfers, led by Julian Stuart, and had several interesting Soccer tales to tell on his return.

Perhaps the most memorable was a trip to the Newcastle home of Liverpool and England star Peter Beardsley.

Costello and friends also met the little mid-field maestro and his Liverpool mates in a Newcastle hotel as they prepared for a game against the Geordies.

val from the department.

Gilbert said the QSF has sent a letter of support for Vosuga's move to the Immigration Department with City's request for change of club permission, but had no power to speed up the bureaucratic system.

"It's a matter of just waiting, but all clubs were advised of the rules several weeks ago," he said.

Visa players are not permitted to attract transfer fees, although City and Olympic have come to terms on a settlement of expenses.

"We will be doing everything possible to ensure Cheetha is available for our next match," said City secretary John Ponturo. "We can't just let this matter sit in someone's basket in a government office."

City's new Scottish signing is Ronald Yule, 21, who has played in the Glasgow Rangers reserves and arrived in Brisbane last week.

The 6ft 3in defender played in a club trial and looks a quality player.

That will put pressure on City's already strong defensive ranks. Noel Greenhalgh, the team captain, and Roddy Vasquez occupied the central defence for much of last season, but the pressure will be on now for places.

"It's a nice situation to be in," said coach Matt Carson.

City are awaiting the arrival of another overseas player, a striker with English first division experience.

The as yet unnamed striker is expected in Brisbane later in April.

ADELAIDE

WHISPERS

USC Lion-Grange has signed Kon Karagiolis from Adelaide City and Hellas striker Jim Karabatsos.

Former Croatia goalkeeper Damien Sikic also has been trialling with the club and negotiations on his move from Azzurri look likely to be finalised this week.

Secretary George Onistrijanski said Lion still had not made a decision on who would replace Bernie Bridges as coach.

Bridges quit last week, indicating he wished to play this season with another club. Dnistrijanski said the club had not approached veteran Hellas player Bobby Tuffs but would monitor his Soccer intentions in the next few weeks.

Former Asteras goalkeeper Archie Christakos has joined up at Grange after a spell in Port Pirie.

One to watch from Lion is versatile youngster Andrew Tarasenko. He could have a bright future.

The Lion club also might field the only Aborigine in the Rothmans League. Geoff Scott is playing with the seniors after stepping up from Lion's amateur side last season.

★★★

Young Adelaide City defender Ernie Luongo has transferred to Polonia.

He is one of several young City men reportedly disgruntled at limited opportunities at City.

★★★

Promising SA teenage tennis star Mark Ellet has signed as a striker with Enfield City.

He scored in a trial last week and will team up with brother Brenton who is City's keeper. Mark had to postpone his tennis career because of a wrist injury and has impressed coach Neil Bonnar so far.

★★★

Skilled defender Mark Harvey has shocked Para Hills with a transfer request.

"Mark has been with the club since he was a junior and he wants a change," said coach and former Soccer keeper Martyn Crook.

★★★

Hellas men Raymond Blair and Zoran Maricic will join captain Alby Kidd in a special kids' coaching school next month.

Kidd, a former professional in Dundee, will be coaching director.

Top SA custodian Robbie Parks will give special goalkeeping tuition at the course at Scotch College.

★★★

Port Adelaide United is desperate to hear from a key central defender for the State League season which starts on March 18.

The Magpies were promoted last year but lost experienced defender Wolfgang Jovanovic to Perth. He moved to WA on business.

"We desperately are looking for someone to fill his spot," said club chairman Len Alagich.

Port meanwhile celebrates its 85th birthday this year and will mark the occasion with a dance on April 8.

★★★

Former successful Croatia and USC Lion-Grange coach Jack Braidwood is keen to get back into Soccer.

Broadwood retired last year but now admits his decision might have been hasty.

"Once this game gets into your blood, that's it," he said. "I'm now looking to get back into Soccer in some capacity, not necessarily as coach."

MILWALL TOUR



THE SA Soccer Federation has rejected a visit by boom English First Division club Millwall.

The Lions, third in England's top league, are scheduled to visit Australasia in June.

They will play in Perth before heading for two games in NZ.

But SASF secretary Mike Wells said: "It was just not feasible to bring them here with the too high costs being asked."

"If we had had time to get a sponsor to underwrite a game here we could have considered it."

"We still may get a revised offer to discuss but at this stage they will not be coming here."

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, P.O. Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Brisbane City will flex new muscles

THE immediate playing future of Fijian international Cheetha Vosuga is in the hands of bureaucrats.

Vosuga, 26, has switched from Olympic United to XXXX League rivals Brisbane City but was not permitted to make his debut for the 1988 premiers on the opening night of the XXXX pre-season tournament at Perry Park.

An Australian Soccer

Federation edict requires visa players to gain Immigration Department permission for any change to their sponsoring club.

Queensland Soccer Federation secretary Jim Gilbert said Vosuga would not get a final clearance until the QSF received a letter of appro-



**Northern
NSW News
and views**

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Country v City for Kempsey game

Sixteen players have been named in the Country Youth squad which will play City at Kempsey on Anzac Day.

The squad, plus two reserves, was named after the Country Youth Championship, won by Mid-North Coast, was decided at Murwillumbah last month.

The squad, which will be coached by former Melita Eagles and Northern NSW representative midfielder Greg McCoy, is: Alex Paul, Dion Benjamin, Ben Callcott, Mark Griffith, Roy Brown (Tweed); Glen Williams, Brett Adams, Huy Dinh,

Anthony Stopka (North Coast); Mathew Richards, Stephen Lawrance (Hastings).

Reserves: Andrew Porter (North Coast), Peter Ragno (Manning).

The squad will train at the Coffs Harbour Showground at 11am on March 19 and April 16.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Greg McCoy, phone 065-695447.

The City team has not yet been announced.

Socceroos follow sponsorship deal

THE Socceroos came to Austral Park last Wednesday night and their appearance in a challenge match against Willie Gallagher's Newcastle Austral squad helped generate a healthy contribution to the 1989 NBN 3 Telethon.



CRAIG CARTER

The game gave Frank Arok more food for thought as he assesses his options for the team that will take on New Zealand and Israel in the impending World Cup elimination fixtures, while Gallagher gave all of his squad a run and the chance to press claims

for inclusion in the side that will begin its commitments in the NSW State League on March 19.

The match, which drew about 3000 spectators, also provided about \$10,000 for the NBN 3 Telethon, the aim of which is to pursue better cancer-related facilities for the area.

Few in the crowd expected anything but a Socceroo victory and the 2-0 result reflected the 'Roos' greater experience against a team that showed total commitment to the encounter.

Indeed, it was some of the Austral players who stood out after Paul Wade's volley in the second minute disappointed the home fans and Oscar Crino's perfectly-placed penalty kick in the 37th minute established the Socceroos' 2-0 buffer.



WILLIE GALLAGHER

Craig Carter, the 19-year-old Austral goalkeeper, gave an outstanding all round display; Costa Caimakamis, also 19, showed skill and the ability to open up play on the left, and Doug Elphick, in his first season with the club, indicated

Parading new signings Graham Lomas and Wayne Farnsworth and with Kevin Farrar giving a fine display in goal this Mount Druitt side could be the testing material once they find their feet.

North Shore

Newly named North Shore United showed they had retained all the renowned fighting qualities inherited from their previous life as Ku-ring-gai when they staged a typical fightback against a highly skilled Sydney Macedonia outfit.

Macedonia went to the front in the 15th minute when Scot Gilbert ran onto a good ball from George Fernandez and slammed the ball past Craig Thornton.

Former Rockdale sweeper Billy Pilovski had a hand in the second goal with his long ball forward catching Thornton in two minds and quick thinking by Vehvija Kadric enabled that player to head over the advancing keeper and into an empty net, in the 34th minute.

David Bennett set up Derek Ryan on the left flank six minutes later for the home side and Ryan's measured cross from the edge of the area was well met by the cool head of Craig Bass, to keep North Shore in touch.

Sustained pressure by United led to a corner on the right from Ryan which Mark Nile slammed home from close range after others had been unable to connect.

Orange Waratah got off to a good start in second division by registering a 2-1 win over Waverley at Waratah Park. The locals took the lead after 20 minutes through Craig Jones, the left back, who

moved out of defence in a swift move, received a return pass and hit a 22-metre cracker past the Waverley goalie.

Waverley could have drawn level from the penalty spot, but Tony Kinsey had the misfortune to strike the home team custodian in top form and saw his shot well saved.

Darren Jones put Waratah further ahead in the 75th minute after coming on as substitute and receiving a through ball from Jeff Johnson, but Waverley's 18-year-old substitute Juan Lezzano pulled one back in the 88th minute to keep the scoreline respectable.

Bankstown fought back from an early S. Hines goal in their Potts Park clash with Bathurst, by drawing level when flankman Dave White deceived the 'keeper with a firmly struck low shot from 20 metres.

Level at the break, Bankstown capitalised on the speed of Darren James, back after a year with Polonia. James set up Dave White who in turn knocked the ball on for Mark Callanan and the youngster claimed the winner.

Surprises

It was a round of few surprises and too early to assess prospects of a likely pacesetter.

A better indication may be gained after this weekend's matches, particularly when Granville Chile takes on Dulwich Hill at St. George Stadium.

Sydney Macedonia will be looking to break through against Mount Druitt and will need a solid 90 minute display if they are to break down some stubborn resistance.



DOUG ELPHICK

that his transfer from the Stockton Sharks could prove a bonus for Willie Gallagher.

Elphick — tall, strong, hard-running and unafraid to shoot when the chance arises — could well become a key player in Austral's premiership ambitions.

Meanwhile, at a media function and luncheon at the Austral United club on the day of the match, it was announced that Austral's major sponsors for 1989 would be NBN Channel 3, FAI Insurance and Radio 2HD.

Chile-Vikings settle for draw

BY MICHAEL DEANE

CONDITIONS for the opening round of the State League Division Two season were hot and humid as Granville Chile and Campbelltown Vikings settled for a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Campbelltown were on top of the game in the first 15 minutes, mostly through the efforts of Danny Verden who ran strongly up front ably assisted by Mark Stevens.

Vikings dominated play 10 minutes before half-time when midfield duo Ian Wotherspoon and Andy Tracey led Granville's strike force.

With the score locked at 0-0 both teams headed for the dressing rooms for a well-earned cold drink.

The second half kicked off in much the same way as the first with both teams striving for that elusive goal. It took a while before the fans had something to cheer about. It was not until the 68th minute before a goal was scored. Campbelltown's Mark Duke fouled Granville's centre forward Ortiz just outside Viking's penalty area. Periera was called upon to take the free kick.

His shot was on target, but he was denied by Vikings custodian Tony Avellino who parried the shot to the feet of Rorella who calmly slotted past Avellino to give Granville a 1-0 lead.

Campbelltown's efforts in staging a comeback were rewarded in the 80th minute when Mark Stanton received a ball from the halfway line. He swerved past his midfield opponent and supplied a superb through-ball to Mark Stevens who shot hard and low and beat the advancing keeper all the way to level the score at 1-1.

With minutes remaining and the Vikings pressing for both points Julio Lobos made a dramatic reflex save after a cross from a corner was deflected by a defender. Lobos magically changed direction in mid air and took the ball onto his chest to deny the Vikings maximum points.

Great start to '89



NEW SOUTH WALES

BY PAUL GOODWIN

NSW SECOND DIVISION

FAIRY Meadow and Gladesville Hornsby got the 1989 Second Division competition off to a good start when they clashed at Brandon Park last Saturday.

Meadow made the early running, but missed the chance to take an early lead when Peter Willis' penalty attempt was saved by new goalie David Griffiths.

Willis made amends in the 80th minute by scoring from a free kick which

cannoned off the defensive wall past the hapless Griffiths.

Gladesville had a better second half and claimed their hard earned equaliser in the dying stages. A corner from Paul Mamo was headed back at the far post by Eldridge and big Chris Butt was on hand to head the ball beyond the reach of Graham Cook in the Meadow goal.

Manly Warringah's plucky young side came up against newly promoted Dulwich Hill at Cromer and had their work cut out, with the



PETER WILLIS

visitors going ahead through Sergio Barros in the 5th minute.

The Seaside's fought back with a piledriver from Steve Wassell four minutes later, but a handball in the box led to Dulwich Hill regaining the lead through Zeljko Beres in the 33rd.

Chris Harris made it 3-1 soon after the break, but an overhead kick by Benny Willis kept Manly in the hunt.

A late flurry saw Beres score his second, before Butler got on the scoresheet from the penalty spot after a handball.

Two solo efforts from Barros put Dulwich Hill beyond the reach of the home side, sending a 600-strong crowd home happy with an afternoon of clean crisp football.

Mount Druitt opened their account after only 50 seconds against Yugal when Charlie Van der Bosch beat the offside trap in a piece of enterprising play and a disappointing Yugal side managed to scramble back on terms, in front of a healthy crowd when Goulburn policeman Doug Hall used his pace to outsmart the home defence.



NSW

DIV 2 GRADE 1

Dulwich Hill	1	1	0	0	3	2
Orange Waratah	1	1	0	0	2	1
Bankstown	1	1	0	0	2	1
Sydney Macedonia	1	1	0	1	0	2
North Shore Utd	1	1	0	2	2	1
Gladesville Hby	1	1	0	1	1	1
Fairy Meadow	1	1	0	1	1	1
Campbelltown Vt.	1	1	0	1	1	1
SSC Yugal	1	1	0	1	1	1
Mount Druitt	1	1	0	1	1	1
Granville Chile	1	1	0	1	1	1
Bathurst 75	1	0	0	1	1	2
Waverley	1	0	0	1	1	2
Manly Warringah	1	0	0	1	3	0

DIV 2 GRADE 2

Bankstown	1	1	0	0	14	2
Mount Druitt	1	1	0	0	4	1
Manly Warringah	1	1	0	0	3	1
Campbelltown Vt.	1	1	0	0	2	0
Gladesville Hby	1	1	0	0	2	1
Sydney Macedonia	1	1	0	1	1	1
Waverley	1	1	0	1	1	1
Orange Waratah	1	1	0	1	1	1
North Shore Utd	1	1	0	1	1	1
Fairy Meadow	1	1	1	1	1	2
Dulwich Hill	1	0	1	1	1	3
Granville Chile	1	0	0	1	0	2
SSC Yugal	1	0	0	1	1	4
Bathurst 75	1	0	0	1	2	14

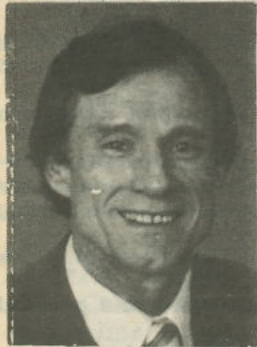
NSW STATE LEAGUE DIV 2.

	1ST	U19
Fairy Meadow v Gladesville	1-1	1-2
Orange v Waverley	2-0	1-1
Mt Druitt v Yugal	1-1	4-1
Gran Chile v Campbelltown	1-1	0-2
Dulwich Hill v Manly W	6-3	1-3
N. Shore v Syd Maced	2-2	1-1
Bankstown v Bathurst	2-1	14-2

The case for more professionalism . . .

BY MIKE JOHNSON

YOUNG Zlatko Arambasic has already begun to repay back with goals the \$20,000 outlay by Blacktown City to Canterbury Marrickville for his services.



That one point his goal earned against APIA Leichhardt might save Blacktown from relegation this year, or it might put them into the top five play-off.

Good players make good teams and good coaches make them even better.

I remember Zlatko as an 18 year old last season for Canterbury against my team Wollongong Macedonia; big, strong, excellent in the air, powerful on the ground.

Les Scheinflug put him into his Australian under 19 team, and now has him at Blacktown — but for how long?

Zlatko's next move may be to Europe.

How could we keep Zlatko here?

One way might be to pay him three times as much as he gets now.

Perhaps have him sign for one of our biggest national league clubs who may later go fulltime professional.

To paraphrase the Commonwealth Bank TV commercial, you may well ask "which club?"

Perhaps South Melbourne Hellas, or more likely Sydney Croatia or Sydney Olympic.

The pattern has been set in Europe.

Take Sweden! Malmö, our recent visitor, has only recently gone full time professional.

They are one of only a few clubs in the Swedish First Division competition which are full time.

The majority of Sweden's First Division clubs are part time like ourselves.

Denmark is the same, similarly Norway, even Belgium and Holland.

All of these nations have one or two prominent top clubs who are full time, but the majority of clubs use part time professionals: plumbers, trainee accountants, drivers, bricklayers, clerks, just as in Aus-

tralia.

Remember Sweden played in the final of the World Cup against Brazil in 1958.

Denmark were greatly admired in Mexico with their modern, fluid, mid-field based game in the last World Cup.

Professionalism

Not every national league club in Australia needs to go full time for us to have a national league competition that can keep some of our stars here in Australia.

We would not keep all of them, but some would stay and the standard of our national league would be improved as some clubs set the pace with full timers, including overseas stars.

It needs for some of our top clubs to extend their vision, widen their horizons, to look beyond the boundaries of Preston or Blacktown.

Why pick on Blacktown; they have done some excellent things in their short history, and are planning for a new ground.

It is just that some of our clubs must greatly uplift their ambition.

I sat in Blacktown's compact little 'paddock' the other weekend watching them play Heidelberg.

It reminded me of when I first came to Australia in the 60s to play for South Coast United, the forerunner to Wollongong Wolves.

They also played in a paddock at Woonona, in Wollongong.

But that was 25 years ago.

What are we doing still playing in paddocks.

A 'paddock' is Australian for field. Most of our clubs play in fields, with a small building to one side in which the players change.

The one distinction these fields can claim is banked up soil around the periphery covered with grass on which spectators sit.

Australia's biggest clubs such as Sydney Croatia, are slowly developing better arenas.

Even my 14 year old son Damian laughed scornfully at the sign in big letters above the Blacktown City dressing rooms which said "GABBIE STA-

DIUM" . . . "where's the stadium?" he asked.

As mentioned earlier, last year I was at Wollongong Macedonia, which for two years had languished at the bottom of the NSW State League, because it did not have class players.

It considered it did not have money to purchase such players.

This year the leadership of the club, frightened by the near drop over the precipice into 2nd division, has chased money. They advertised, they aggressively sought sponsorship, some put money in themselves.

Now they have purchased a team and another half besides, which is this year favoured to win the NSW State League.

This would be short term success, but it does give an indication of what determined people can do.

Foresight

Some years ago, when appointed manager-coach at St George, I found they played not on a Soccer field, but in a cricket field called Hurstville Oval, with a rock hard cricket square in the middle.



ALEX PONGRASS

St George was then the top team in Australia (not cash flow wise, but player wise).

They had eight current internationals playing on that monstrosity of a cricket field.

I told president Alex Pongrass that his club needed a top class stadium.

He said, "find me the place to build one!"

I did. A vast area of space near Sydney Airport.

I took him to see it. He walked into the middle of the clumpy grass covered area, stopped, looked around for about a minute then said: "We'll build here".

Within two years,

Pongrass had built an excellent stadium and laid down three outer training grounds.

He did it with much less resources than some of our top clubs.

I sat in that stadium a few nights ago as St George played Heidelberg.

Heidelberg, apparently, did not have the money to build up its team some weeks ago.

I watched it outclassed by Marconi in early season — a State League team out of its depth in the National League.



Paul Trimboli

Now money has been found for many new players and it was a different Heidelberg which should have grabbed a point from St George the other night.

People with drive, ambition, determination, vision and the ability to organise can successfully take us out of the paddock mentality we are still in.

We must produce a 21st century Soccer environment for our future Arambasics, Polaks, Reynolds, Trimbolis.

Sydney Croatia, keep working to improve your Edensor Park facility then go full time.

Melbourne JUST — I am told you have brought in, at great expense, four overseas coaches in only two years. How about using one coach over the next four years and building something permanent.

Sydney Olympic, for how much longer are you to wander like nomads from one ground to another?

Aim to settle down, seek to go full time.

Melbourne has more Greek people than any Greek city apart from Athens, Salonika and Patris, whilst Sydney has a big established Greek population also.

South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic, you should compete to produce great clubs housed in stadiums, that will keep in best boys from flying off to Greece each year.



Vince Iacopetta displays his Oceania Player of the Series trophy — and practices at the same time.

Young Iacopetta bound for World Under 16 Cup

BY ALAN CLARK

YOUNG Soccer sensation Vince Iacopetta cannot sleep — he is so excited over the prospects of representing the Joeys in the under 16 World Championships in June in Scotland.

Iacopetta, who is 17 in August, was voted the Umbro Player of the Series in Australia's comprehensive Oceania qualifying success.

The Adelaide City striker scored eight goals as Australia beat Chinese Taipei 2-0 (1 goal); Vanuatu 2-0 (5); Fiji 4-1, NZ 5-1 (2).

His City team-mate Ross Aloisi also played half a game in the defeat of Fiji.

Iacopetta looks sure to have a memorable career.

Former Socceroo captain, now columnist, promoter and broadcaster, Johnny Warren described the SA teen star as a striker of the future.

And Iacopetta is looking forward to this year's prospects.

"Coach Vic Dalglish is to hold a training camp over the Easter holidays and he is likely to name his 'd for Scotland team," said the Salisbury East

High School student.

"The coach is likely to change the squad a little bit as he is looking for fast and skilful players for the finals.

"But I'm pretty confident I'll be picked as I played in all the qualifying games at Parklea in Sydney and think I did well."

Iacopetta is 175 cms (5ft9in) tall, of slim build, but is 'lightning' fast.

He won the State schools age-group 100m title last year in a time of 11.2secs.

The skilled youngster with an eye for goals is working hard for his success.

"I do sit-ups and press-ups every morning and evening and also train every night," he said.

"I'm so looking forward to the finals in Scotland I cannot sleep at night.

"They will be a great experience as the fans there love their Soccer and it will be great to play in big stadiums in front of lots of people."

Iacopetta is training with City's under-18 and Rothmans League side and could break into the State First Division competition this year.

But he has not forgotten men who helped him on the road

to success since he began Soccer with Salisbury City's under-7 side.

"I was three years at City before going to Salisbury United where my coach Santos Caminiti really encouraged and helped me," said Iacopetta. "Rocco Aloisi at City also has been a big help and I cannot thank them enough."

Euro Cups

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP:

Werder Bremen v AC Milan 0-0, PSV Eindhoven v Real Madrid 1-1, IFK Goteborg v Steaua Bucharest 1-0, Monaco v Galatasaray 0-1.

CUP-WINNERS CUP:

Dinamo Bucharest v Sampdoria 1-1, CSKA Sofia v Roda (Holland) 2-1, Eintracht Frankfurt v Mechelen 0-0, Aarhus v Barcelona 1.

UEFA CUP:

Hearts v Bayern Munich 1-0, VfB Stuttgart v Real Sociedad 1-0, Victoria Bucharest v Dynamo Dresden 1-1, Juventus v Napoli 2-0.

On the ball in SOUTH AMERICA

BY MARIO ETCHART

THE Libertadores Cup produced more unexpected results.

Some of the big guns have been surprisingly beaten.

In Bolivia, Danubio of Uruguay lost both games against Bolivian teams.

The Strongest defeated the Uruguayan champions 1-0 with a goal scored by Mario Ortega in the 48th minute.

Brilliant Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Pereira was sent off by Argentine referee Ricardo Calabria.

In its second match against the Bolivian champion, Bolivar, Danubio lost 1-3.

Bolivian midfielder Erwin "Platini" Sanchez opened the score after 14 minutes, but in a counter-attack, Uruguayan striker Gustavo Dalto equalised.

In the second half, Sanchez added a second in the 60th, while Hirano scored also.

After three games, Bolivar leads Group 5 with 5 points, followed by The Strongest with 3 and Danubio and Penarol on 2.

In Group 1, Colo Colo of Chile beat Sol de America of Paraguay 3-1 at Santiago's Nacional Stadium.

Sol de America went ahead 1-0 in the 7th minute after striker Centurion, with a powerful freekick, put the ball in the Chilean net.

Sergio Salgado scored twice for Colo

Colo in the 10th and 30th, while Ruben Espinoza converted the third with a well executed penalty.

The Paraguayans then travelled to play Chilean champion Cobreloa and the locals had to work hard to achieve a win.

Cobreloa striker Juan Covarrubias scored the only goal of the game in the 25th minute.

Cobreloa leads the group with 4 points from two games.

In Lima, Super Cup champions, Racing of Argentina, lost its first game against Universitario de Deportes, 1-0, and won two important points by defeating Peruvian champion Sporting Cristal 2-1.

Universitario beat Racing with goals from Suarez and Cervera in the 25th and 45th minutes. Vilela converted a penalty for Racing in the 43rd.

Against Sporting, the Argentines played better under the leadership of excellent midfielder Ruben Paz.

Paz and Iglesias scored for the visitors and Manassero for the locals.

Universitario and Cristal still lead Group 4 with 4 points, followed by Racing with 3.

Colombian champion Millonarios won three away points in Ecuador, beating Emelec 2-0 in Guayaquil, and drawing with Deportivo Quito 0-0 in Quito.

Millonarios leads group 3.



It doesn't seem to be all joy as one patron shapes up and another is restrained — sidelight action from Sydney Olympic — South Melbourne at the Sydney Football Stadium on Friday night.

Docherty Cup joy

BY ROY HAY

BOTH Geelong teams had comfortable victories in the second preliminary round of the Dockerty Cup last Saturday.

Playing at Hamlyn Rangers' ground, Myers Reserve, Geelong stunned Clarinda with an opening burst of five goals in the first 35 minutes.

Don Smyth got the first, Darren Tuck scored a hat-trick and Craig Plummer added one. Steve Jones made it six before half-time.

Clarinda recovered a little in the second half and Peter McCaffrey diverted a shot past Sean Howe. Con Nitsikas got another consolation goal at the end.

Clarinda did not stop trying and played some good football in the searing heat. Final score

read Geelong 6, Clarinda 2.

Bell Park beat Waverley City 3-1 at Gardiner's Reserve.

Waverley keeper David Bradley did well to get both hands to Tommy Cumming's first minute shot, but Lino Mazza had made an intelligent run wide on the left and he slotted the rebound home from a narrow angle.

Cumming set up Mick Oppermann who appeared to have pushed the ball too far ahead, but his pace enabled him to reach it just before the defence to score the second.

After half-time,

Oppermann's persistence led to an error by Anthony Perree, whose pass back under pressure found his own net.

Waverley now began to come back into the game and Gary Radcliffe took on two Park defenders on the right and Michael Budd finished off the move.

Dockerty Cup

Nunawading 3 Heidelberg City 4 (after extra time), Albion 3 East Brunswick 0, Essendon City 3 Chelsea 1, Bell Park 3 Waverley City 1, Keilor wins in a walk-over against Yallourn.

Victorian State League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill	1	1	—	—	2	1	2
Bulleen	1	1	—	—	2	1	2
Juventus	1	1	—	—	2	1	2
Green Gully	1	1	—	—	1	0	2
Morwell Falcons	1	1	—	—	1	0	2
Thomastown	1	1	—	—	1	0	2
Frankston Pines	1	—	1	—	3	3	1
Ringwood	1	—	1	—	3	3	1
Fawkner	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Maribymong	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Caulfield	1	—	—	1	1	2	0
Croydon	1	—	—	1	1	2	0
Northcote	1	—	—	1	1	2	0
A Hona Gate	1	—	—	1	0	1	0
Springvale	1	—	—	1	0	1	0
St Albans	1	—	—	1	0	1	0

THIS WEEK'S GAMES:
Saturday 11th: Altona Gate v Ringwood City; Caulfield City v Box Hill; St. Albans v Green Gully; Northcote City v Thomastown.
Sunday 12th: Frankston Pines v Juventus; Croydon City v Bulleen; Springvale City v Polonia; Fawkner v Morwell Falcons.

The Editor

THE recent meeting between the National Soccer League and the Australian Soccer Referees Federation endeavoured to hammer out some solutions to recent problems involving crowd disturbances.

Overall there was complete agreement that the actions of groups of persons entering soccer grounds for reasons other than to watch soccer matches be condemned.

ASW believes that every effort must be made to abandon old grievances that have been imported from many areas of Europe.

The accent must be on playing sport, rather than opening up old sores.

On the spot advice from the Sydney Olympic — Preston Makedonia game indicated that many youths did not even know who they were fighting against.

Some did not even know who were of Greek descent.

Perhaps some had knowledge of old political problems from Europe.

More likely, from information received, many went along knowing it was an occasion for a stoush, rather than having a clear idea of what the issues were.

At Blacktown the action was limited and the NSL is correct in pressing its clubs to ensure that regulations for ground security are enforced.

It is many years since Sydney lost a certain proportion of its Soccer followers, who would not wear this type of limited warfare.

There has to be a strengthening link between senior clubs and district associations if soccer is to succeed.

It is no accident that leading club Marconi is taking steady steps to work in with the Southern Districts SFA to ensure it has a future in the standard of players available, as well as in maintaining and improving its crowds.

Blacktown, which sometimes receives criticism for its ordinary attendances, is no slouch when it comes to ensuring its future.

It has appointed a liaison officer who is bringing the junior clubs and schools of its area closer to the NSL club through coaching and contact generally.

Clubs in Melbourne should similarly look at the wider scene to plan their future.

Powerful moves are taking place in Newcastle and Canberra, designed to move one community wide senior club from these areas back into NSL football.

It is no credit to the NSL that the International Sports Centre and Bruce Stadium have been allowed to slip from Soccer's hands. Where is the foresight? Some clubs still play on paddocks.

Who is to say that Brisbane won't get the right message in the course of time. It needs one major club.

Soccer led other sports by nationalising its operation in Australia.

But, since those heady days it has retreated into its mainly Melbourne and Sydney bunkers and has virtually abandoned attempting to influence the Australian sports public.

At the same time Australian rules and rugby league have spread their wings to cover meaningful areas of the continent.

Soccer has to cast off its often blinkered approach and plan effectively for the future.

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COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ROUND 9

FRIDAY MARCH 10
 Preston Make v Heidelberg Olympic Pk 8pm

SATURDAY MARCH 11
 Wollongong City v Marconi Brandon Pk 5pm
 ★ South Melbourne v Melbourne Croatia Middle Pk 5.30pm
 Sunshine GC v Melb City JUST Chaplin Res 5.30pm

SUNDAY MARCH 12
 Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic Hindmarsh Stad 8pm
 ★ Sydney Croatia v Apia Leichhardt Croatian Sp. Centre 6.30pm
 ★ St George v Blacktown City St George St. 7.30pm
 ★ Likely deferments



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AIS video library

LAST week's issue included an extensive list of videotapes which can be obtained from the National Sports Information Centre at the Australian Sports Commission in Canberra.

Clubs can become members of the library service at a very reasonable cost, giving their coaching directors, team coaches and managers access to very relevant material in a manner that their players find easy to absorb.

The point of contact for the Centre is P.O. Box 176, Belconnen ACT 2616. Tel 062 52 1240. Fax 062 52 1680. Telex AVSIS AA2400.

CONDITION OF LOAN OF VIDEOTAPE MATERIAL

1. All members of the videotape library must register with the National Sport Information Centre prior to borrowing videotapes.

2. A loan handling fee of \$6 per tape is to be forwarded to the National Sport Information Centre with each request for the loan of a videotape. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Sports Commission.

3. Bookings for the loan of videotapes should be made at least 10 days prior to the screening date on a videotape Loan Request Form. Bookings cannot be guaranteed. Bookings may be made at short notice by telephoning (062) 52 1240 or in person.

4. The loan period for videotapes is 7 days plus transport time where necessary.

5. Loans may be extended for a further 7 days

provided the item is not required by another borrower. To extend a loan phone (062) 52 1240.

6. No more than 3 videotapes will be lent to a member of any one time.

7. Borrowers must not sub-lend National Sport Information Centre videotapes. Items are lent for an individual member's use only.

8. The National Sport Information Centre retains the right to restrict the loan of certain videotapes and to withdraw programmes from circulation without notice.

9. Where the producer of videotapes has imposed special conditions on usage such requirements must be observed.

10. All loans will be dispatched by certified mail unless the borrower specifies some other method of dispatch eg: nominated courier.

11. All loans should be returned by certified mail

or by courier.

12. Borrowers should return videotapes in the same or in equivalent package and ensure that the item is packed protectively.

13. Borrowers must accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of, videotapes while on loan. Damage should not be repaired by the borrower. Damaged items should be returned and reported to the National Sport Information Centre in writing.

14. All videotapes should be rewound after use.

15. Copyright restrictions

It is the borrowers' responsibility to ensure that videotapes are not:

- Copied or reproduced in any form without prior permission in writing from the copyright owner;
- Used on any occasion when admission is charged; or,
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VIDEOTAPE LENDING LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

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- Bear full responsibility for costs incurred through loss of or damage to videotapes while on loan to me by the National Sport Information Centre, and,
- Prevent any copyright infringement by ensuring that videotapes on loan are not:
 - Copied or reproduced in any form without prior permission in writing from the copyright owner;
 - Used on any occasion when admission is charged; or,
 - Broadcast.

(Signature) (Date)

Wakehurst U11s held in April

WAKEHURST Soccer Club is once again conducting an under 11 tournament this year. In its brief three-year history this event has grown in stature and has attracted top teams from across the Sydney metropolitan area.

The tournament has been set down for Sunday, April 16. The early date avoids any clash with metropolitan reps, and should ensure that all the leading clubs are at full strength.

The Ericsson Communications Group has once again come to the party with generous sponsorship.

Matches will be of 20 minutes duration. Limited round-robins will be conducted in

the morning to establish a qualifying order. Separate knock-out competitions will be played in the afternoon.

Attractive trophies will be provided for the winners and runners-up in both the major tournament and consolation event.

The host club will be hoping that their young Tigers can go one better than at their last outing when they lost in the Cham-

pion of Champions final to Revesby Workers.

Invitations have been sent to all teams who competed in last years U/10 Champion of Champions, including teams from the South Coast, Campbelltown, Singleton and Wyoming.

The field will be limited to 16 and acceptances should be returned as soon as possible.

Any coach with a strong under 11 side keen to "test the water" could contact tournament organiser Jim Trevenar after hours on 451 7858.



FORMER Nepean juniors, who now play for NSL and State League clubs, at the St Marys Village Centre (from left): Tommy McCulloch, Chris Ackerley, Scott Ashton and Trevor Daley. (Photo courtesy Penrith Press).

McCulloch thrills Nepean kiddies

A DECADE after Tommy McCulloch played junior Soccer in the Nepean district, the Marconi star made a popular return to the area for a successful Soccer promotion at St Marys Village Centre, recently.

McCulloch captained the Australian team at the World Youth Championship finals in Mexico in 1983 and went on to establish himself at full international level with the Socceroos.

At club level, he is a midfielder in the Marconi team which won the NSL championship last year.

In fact, McCulloch's visit to St Marys earned Marconi plenty of new fans among Nepean juniors, who were treated to posters and free passes to Marconi's crushing 5-0 victory over Apia.

Three other former Nepean juniors, who now play for State League First Division clubs, also attended the shopping centre promotion.

They were Australian Schoolboy international Trevor Daley (who plays for Melita Eagles), Chris Ackerley and Scott Ashton (both with Avala).

Only four years ago, Daley, Ackerley and Ashton were playing Youth League for Nepean in the under-16 team coached by Stan Ackerley.

Nepean representative teams, four local clubs — St Marys Convent, St Clair, Kemps Creek and Werrington Croatia — and the Nepean Referees' Association took part in the shopping centre promotion.

Are referees too finicky?

THE question is often raised as to how hard or lenient a referee should be in junior competition games.

To answer this I think we must look at what obligations referees have to the young players, to ourselves and to the game.

The young players are there to enjoy themselves and to learn how to play the great game of Soccer.

The coach has had them attend training sessions, endeavoured to teach them some basic skills and how to work as a team.

They are encouraged to go out each weekend and put into practice the things they have been taught and with some luck they might even win some matches.

It is the referee's duty to enforce the laws as necessary.

Learning skills and team work amounts to very little if they are not able, or aren't required, to be applied in the true spirit of the game.

Over many years the laws have been ad-

justed in an attempt to allow all players to display their skills, play safely and enjoy themselves.

So from day one as a referee on ALL games you must enforce the laws of the game so as to give all players the chance to display the skills they possess.

If a young player starting out is not penalised for things they do wrong, how can they learn what is right?

Playing the game of Soccer is like many things in life. If we are allowed to learn bad habits when we are young we will take them with us through life if they are not corrected.

Young players allowed to commit fouls will take those bad habits along with them as they move to older age groups.

Then problems start because now they are coming under the control of referees who have also progressed in their ability to read and control the game.

"The referee is too hard! He is always picking on me. I'm always being cautioned or sent off."

A lot of this conflict can be removed, if right from the start, players are made to play by the laws and to respect the referee.

Then as they reach higher levels of games, their play and skills have developed and with the game played

in the right spirit, players, spectators and the like will truly enjoy the great game of Soccer.

This offer is not confined to men only but very definitely includes women, boys and girls, and only requires that you be 14 years of age or over.

There is not even a need for you to have played the game.

Ron Beaumont

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Exciting year expected

THE 1989 season is poised to become the most exciting year ever in the relatively short life of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup.

There are now over 400 schools playing in the competition.

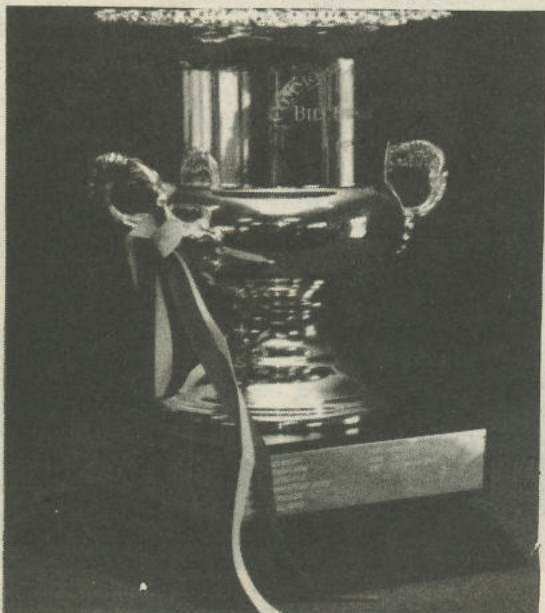
Following negotiations with the bank, the executive decided to change its AGM from January back to September, just a few weeks after the 1988 final.

The AGM was transferred to the Pitt Street office of the Commonwealth Bank, where the executive and quite a number of the area co-ordinators met to iron out the organisation and rule changes for 1989.

Terry Murphy, Jennine Freshwater and Peter Byrne from the bank's community and media relations department were on hand to assist, and make recommendation to improve the competition.

Without doubt, the most exciting innovation by the bank was to introduce a book which contains all the details necessary to conduct the competition.

There is a complete list of co-ordinators, a history of the cup, the results from the last sixteen for 1988 plus pictures of the two finalists, a calendar, team-sheet, entry form, the draw for every area and much much more.



Star Player

Perhaps the most interesting and exciting concept in this year's competition is the Commonwealth Bank Club Australia Star Player Award.

After each game, three players from both teams earn points (3, 2, 1).

The criteria for judging is a) Conduct b) Team skills and c) Individual skills.

The results are then forwarded to Lindsay Hewison (Sydney Areas), and Bill Turner

make things difficult.

The bottom half of the ACT draw appears to be very strong with Holder, Kaleen, Canberra, Telopea and Daramalan having considerable potential.

Out in the Far West, the scene is set for a really great year. The winner at this early stage could come from Bathurst High or Bathurst's Kelso High, Orange or Lithgow.

However, there are two areas of interest that will catch the imagination of all those who follow the Bill Turner Cup.

The first is to see whether Tottenham Central can emulate their feats of 1988 by reaching the third round.

Huge Sydney increase

Thanks to some excellent co-operation among the co-ordinators, sportsmasters and coaches, draws were made in every current area by last December.

Very few byes were recorded in the Sydney areas.

Should schools seek to make a late entry they will be required to compete for one of the bye positions.

Grand Final

This year's grand final will be played at Macquarie Field, Lindsay Hewison, convenor for the huge Sydney region, expects having a most successful season, culminating, as usual, with the night promotional games in June and July.

The 17 new entries include a great number of newer schools from the Campbelltown area.

Hopefully, Fairvale HS and Drummoyne Boys HS will prove to be as successful in this competition as they have been recently in the senior competition.

In addition, the performance of another new entrant is eagerly awaited — that of St Gregory's Campbelltown especially if they renew their great rivalry from the oval ball game

in our code with Patricia Bros Fairfield.

Speaking of Fairfield, they will again be amongst the favourites along with perennial good performers Benedict College, Canterbury Boys, Kogarah High, St Dominics Penrith and the three Liverpool schools — Liverpool Boys, Pat Bros Liverpool and Freeman High.

All will be revealed beginning on April 14.

A couple of late entries have already been accepted by Colin Blake, who attends to the area bounded by the Queensland border down to Grafton.

Several are expected by Tim Wilson in Queensland's two large areas.

From the Far West of NSW Alan Groth is "over the moon" after receiving two entries from the Silver City.



Broken Hill and Wilyama will meet in a Round One match with the winner meeting Nyngan.

It is already obvious that in 1990 the competition will have to be restructured again to accommodate all the additional entries.

Speers Point on Wednesday night, August 30.

It will be preceded by the play-off for third place between the two beaten semi-finalists.

The semi-finals are scheduled for Tuesday night, August 29.

The competition executive is already preparing the groundwork to make this year's final presentation the best ever.

It is hoped many nationally-known Soccer identities will be on hand.

Dudley Lewis, the Newcastle-Hunter co-ordinator, is keen to get the right promotions off to a good start.

He has several top games listed for Round Two, but none better than the winner of Whitebridge and Cessnock opposed to St Pauls, Booragul.

Booragul High against Broadmeadow and Newcastle versus Glendale are also exciting prospects.

These games should draw a good crowd to Macquarie Field, Speers Point.

Matches such as Maitland High and Warners Bay, Kurri Kurri (should they defeat St Catherines Sing-



BILL TURNER

leton) against the 1986 winners Cardiff, and Rutherford tackling last year's winners St Peters, Maitland are all top games for Weston Park on the Coalfields.

Newcomers

New entry St Josephs, Aberdeen could be a dark horse this year. Quite a number of top Soccer players have come through this school where rugby league has been a force but this will be their first major entry into a big Soccer competition.

Last year Kadina entered the series for the first time and won the Far North Coast Area and will be looking at back-to-back titles.

It is great to see the Queensland coastal school Coombah back in the Cup. They were the first Queensland school to enter back in 1987 when they were included with NSW Far North Coast.

Other Queensland schools with expectations are Keebra Park, Springwood, Sunnybank, St Josephs, Toowoomba, who reached the last eight last year before going down to Port Macquarie, Mt Gravatt and Bundaberg.

Word from the Mid-North Coast suggests that Orara and Port Macquarie will again be tough.

Duval (Armidale) and Tamworth could battle out the North West final.

Umina are again early favourites on the Central Coast but Gorokan could be the surprise.

Down on the South Coast, Smith's Hill in North Wollongong could be hard to beat. Corimal, Keira Boys, Holy Spirit Bellambi, and 1988 finalists Figtree could all have something to contribute before a finalist has been determined.

Their efforts certainly created a lot of interest locally but was also well received by the members at the famous North London club when they had the AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY mailed to them carrying the story of their Western NSW namesakes.

Broken Hill and Wilyama meet in the first round with the winner up against Nyngan. From there, they clash with a school from among Bourke, Warren, Tottenham or Narromine.

READERS' LETTERS

JONNIE FEDEL

I would appreciate if you publish in "SOCCER WEEKLY" the information you have, including place of birth, on Sweden's Malmö keeper, Jonnie Fedel.

B. Fedel
[Our information indicates he has played all his football in Sweden and that his parents are Italian. Suggest you write c/- Malmö FF c/- Svenska Fotbollförbundet, Box 1216 S-171 23 Solna, Sweden — Ed.]

COMFORT

REPLYING to your Victorian correspondent's letter (ASW 22.2.89), if the real estate prices in Sydney were not beyond reach of simple mortals, I would advise him to move up to Sydney.

Here for only \$10, he could enjoy in comfort a good seat in the covered grandstand of the St George Stadium, in the company of his wife or friend and two children, thanks to the family ticket introduced this season by the St George Soccer Club.

Actually with the family ticket you would have been given a bottle of champagne after the match, at least it was done at the first three home games.

I agree that reasonable prices and bold promotion, and providing a sheltered seat, can only lead to increased attendances and better football.

Regarding summer football; it was long overdue and despite our prophets of doom (i.e. British football scribes), it's a crowd winner and will remain so.

Without direct competition with the local State Leagues and junior competitions, opening a large available market can only lead to better things, such as full time professionalism, thus stopping the exodus of some of our best talent to overseas clubs.

V. Pires
Darlinghurst 2010

TELEVISION

IN reference to the editorial in ASW 15.2.89, we must say that it makes one wonder what the ASF is trying to do.

Over the years that we have been able to receive SBS here in Qld we have been able to keep up to date and become more familiar on a weekly basis with all the stars and clubs and countries that produce the greatest game of all.

In no way has SBS harmed Soccer in Qld, in fact the opposite is the case in that there are hundreds or probably thousands more people supporting Soccer now than before SBS arrived.

Okay, they are maybe not paying through the turnstiles to see the local games. That problems is not due to SBS but lack of media coverage and overall promotion from the QSF.

The think that Ian and Alan should be flexing their muscles in other areas in the development of the code.

Yes SBS keep it going. We never miss a telecast, nor do our friends even if they have to set the video.

Watching the recent Big Match coverage on ABC, the camera and commentary are a pale shadow of SBS or the English and Italian Soccer commentators.

J. Bell
Brisbane

BRAWL AND POLICE

WELL, we have finally caught up with the UK and mainland Europe when it comes to Soccer violence.

People involved and not involved in Soccer have quickly pointed an accusing finger at politics and racial infighting as a spark that lighted the goings on at St George Stadium last Sunday.

The two main reasons the trouble occurred were simple. Most of the gangs were born here and are simply organised hooligan gangs that will fight at Soccer in Australia just the same as in England.

At the moment, as our crowds slowly rise in numbers, only big clubs have this following.

The thugs used their parents' racial background and politics as an excuse for a "blue" at the game as I am sure that many have never seen Greece or Macedonia.

The second reason is the police. As a St George fan who frequents both our games as well as Olympic and Apia, I have seen and been involved with what I consider pathetic police organisation.

After being attacked once, my group of St George fans were told by police that we shouldn't be at a "wog" sport and we were stupid walking and chatting near the Olympic fans even though it is our ground.

The Police then told us to p... off and were very rude.

The police could stop all trouble if they did their jobs and didn't just stand in the tunnel and watch like mutes.

So come on, police, do your jobs at the games, and come on lads, if you have to fight the match on the terraces, do it when the papers and cameras are not there, if at all, for Soccer's sake

Heath Avery
St George BSC.



South Coast action from the Bill Turner Cup between Warrawong and Woonona.

Not only will the book be sent to participating schools but it is planned to send a copy to the ones that have not entered, so they can do so next year. An entry form is included on page 21.

The competition teamsheet makes up the centrefold which is the correct size. Coaches are asked to photocopy the team sheet as required.

Photocopying is greatly encouraged by the Cup executive to keep the co-ordinators, coaches and bank personnel well informed.

Having the draw for each area printed in the book, everyone will be able to keep the results up-to-date.

Results will appear in the Australian Soccer Weekly, (Wednesday); The Sydney Morning Herald and the Daily Telegraph (Monday).

U 16

SCOTLAND '89

Joeys' rivals

FOURTEEN of the Joeys' opponents in the third FIFA under 16 World Cup in Scotland later this year are now known.

Brazil, Argentina and Colombia have qualified from South America; Cuba, the USA and Canada

from North and Central America; Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria from Africa, and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and China from Asia.

Scotland qualify automatically as the hosts and a tournament in Denmark from May 2/14 will determine two other European finalists.

The draw for the finals will be made in Glasgow on April 7.



Oleg Protassov (centre), seen here in the Euro-88 final with Arnold Muhren and Frank Rijkaard, is one of several Soviet stars headed for the West after the relaxation of exit rules in the USSR.

Italian clubs seek compo

ITALY'S Soccer league has asked for \$38 million to compensate for lost income caused by work on stadiums for the 1990 World Cup finals.

League president Luciano Nizzola told reporters he had asked the Italian Soccer Federation and Olympic Committee, which manages Rome's Olympic Stadium, for preliminary damages. He said the figure did not include expected losses for next season.

Stadiums in 10 of the 12 cities which will stage World Cup matches are being upgraded, leading to loss of gate receipts for the First and Second Division clubs who play there.

First division Roma and Lazio, who both played in the Olympic Stadium where the final will be staged, have already been told they must vacate it for most of next season.

"All the clubs have suffered damages to various extents, those who play at home in stadiums where work is going on and those who go to play there because their cut of the takings has gone down," Nizzola said.

He said all clubs should receive some compensation with the money coming from the Italian Federation's slice of World Cup profits.

Italian Soccer Federation president Antonio Matarrese said his organisation would consider damages for clubs that had been hit hardest.

"We want to avoid any sort of friction with the club," he said.



Antonio Matarrese



BUCKLEY'S

AUSTRALIANS shouldn't hold their collective breaths.

Chances that Australia will stage the next Youth World Cup for players under 20 are at best remote — if not in-existent.

Would you believe that no less than 12 countries besides Australia have expressed an interest in staging the event?

They are: Czechos-

lovakia, Denmark, England, France, West Germany, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Nigeria, Surinam, Uruguay, and wait for it — New Zealand.

As Australia has already hosted one tournament (in 1981), it's highly unlikely we'll get the honour again with such stiff competition.

This year's Youth World Cup concluded in Saudi Arabia last week.

- Controversial Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough is in more hot water — this time for demanding \$10,000 for an interview on television after his team's Littlewoods Cup tie.
- Colombian ace Carlos Valderrama is almost certain to play in Spain next season. The striker with the afro hair style never adapted to French football since joining Montpellier six months ago and has only played sporadically in their first team.
- Thomas Stickroth, Bayer Urdingen's midfielder, was stabbed outside a bar at Krefeld, West Germany during a local carnival. He was in a serious condition, but surgery saved his life. His career is over, though.
- Jorge Burruchaga, the brilliant Argentine midfielder who scored the winning goal in the 1986 World Cup final, is back on deck for his French club, Nantes, after a long absence. Burruchaga hadn't played since fracturing his left knee on May 22, 1987.
- Scottish World Cup supremo, Andy Roxburgh, was not very happy about Arsenal playing a friendly match against the French national team last month because his side will meet France in a vital World Cup qualifier in Glasgow on March 8 (to be televised live by SBS TV). Roxburgh claims Arsenal knifed Scotland in the back by aiding the French!
- Sampdoria's Spanish international midfielder, Victor, made it to his wedding despite being knocked unconscious in a league game against Torino. He was discharged from hospital 12 hours before the wedding in Barcelona and flown there in club president Renato Mantovani's private jet!
- FC Porto have placed an indefinite ban on veteran international Fernando Gomes following an incident at a hotel in Funchal when Porto played Madeira.
- Greek referees went on a three-day strike to protest violence by players and fans. The 3,500-strong refereeing union demanded also a life-time ban on an unnamed player who allegedly helped fans beat up a referee during the Greek Cup match between OFI-Crete and Larissa.
- Pat Bonner, the Celtic goalkeeper, won the Texaco award for 1988 — Ireland's player of the Year prize.
- In Israel, Betar Tel Aviv leads the championship by two points from Hapoel Petah-Tivka and Maccabi Nathanya.
- Kuwait have cancelled their championship to enable the national team to prepare for the World Cup qualifiers. Kuwait advanced to stage 2 after winning their preliminary subgroup last month.
- The World Cup qualifier between Belgium and Luxembourg next month will be played — in France. Lille, 50 kms from both borders, will stage the game because Luxembourg's main stadium is being renovated.
- El Nasr, from Jeddah, have won the Saudi Arabian championship. Hilal Ryad are runners-up. El Nasr's star player is national team hero Majed Abdallah.
- Andrzej Rudy has joined FC Koln. The 23-year-old Polish midfielder who "defected" last November, however, can't play this season because players who leave their clubs without permission have to sit it out for 12 months.
- The Moscow Central Sports Committee has announced that five of the Soviet Union's top players are for sale — at \$1.5 million each. They are Vassily Rats, Vladimir Bessanov, Andrei Bal, Igor Belanov and Alexander Bubnov. The essential criteria appears to be that each player is approaching 30 and has made a considerable contribution to USSR Soccer.



BY LOU GAUTIER

- Famous Brazilian coach Tele Santana will also be coaching in Saudi Arabia next season. He will be in charge of Ittihad, of Jeddah.
- Spain's Sporting Gijon claims to have tamed their hooligans — with the help of a local sex shop. For \$15,000 a season the shop has sponsored Sporting's once notorious self-styled *Ultra Boys*, supplying banners and laying on travel to away matches, in return for which members are told to cool it on the terraces. Sporting are delighted with the results — though they insist nothing naughty appears on the banners. The same sex shop also sponsors fans at Sporting's Spanish League rivals Valladolid.
- Bayern Munich boss Jupp Heynckes, having just signed a new two-year contract with the club, has already announced his first transfer coup for next season. Cologne's midfielder Jurgen Kohler will join the club for \$2 million.

Spaniards revolting

RONALD Koe-man's \$7 million move to Barcelona has led to a revolt among disgruntled players at the Spanish club.

The brilliant Dutch sweeper has signed a four-year contract which guarantees him \$20,000 a week — 10 times more than some squad members and three times the salary enjoyed by Gary Lineker.

Several Barcelona players have asked manager Johan Cruyff (who recently negotiated his own \$2 million per year contract) for a pay rise.

Cruyff has also managed to anger rivals Real Madrid by announcing that he



wants to sign four of their players: Chendo, Vasquez, Paco Llorente and Sanchis.

EURO-92

SWEDEN, as hosts and Holland, if they qualify, will be seeded at the head of two four-team groups in the 1992 European championships finals.

If the Dutch title-holders fail to survive the qualifying rounds, their seeded place will go to the team with the best performance in the preliminary rounds for both the European Championship and the 1994 World Cup.

UEFA's organising committee for the European championships took those decisions at a meeting in Zurich which also approved a match programme for the final series drawn up by the Swedish Football Association.

The eight finalists will be divided into two groups of four, with the top two teams in each going on to the semi-finals.

TRANSFER FEES MAY GO SOON

EUROPEAN club should drop transfer fees and allow players to move freely between European Common Market clubs.

Dutch European Parliament member Jim Janssen van Raay said the European parliament's legal committee adopted a resolution calling the current system of transfer fees a "form of slavery".

The resolution, which he said he expected the full parliament to ratify in April, also says the current limit of two to three foreign players a club should be dropped.

Janssen van Raay said the restrictions on players contravened policy which allows people to move and work freely throughout the EEC bloc.

England's clubs will stay out

ENGLISH clubs will not be allowed to compete in Europe as long as the British government does not support their bid.

UEFA president Jacques Georges said the responsibility for possible violence would be too great without official British sanction — and English clubs thus remain out of the three European Cups.

24 AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — MARCH 8, 1989

Come back, Michels



The all-conquering Dutch players cheer coach Rinus Michels.

AJAX are ready to make former manager Rinus Michels an offer he can't refuse to go back to the club next season.

The Dutch giants have still not appointed a successor to technical director Kurt Linder, sacked a few months ago, and Michels, manager of Holland's European Champions, tops their wanted list.

Michels, who guided the club to European Cup success in the 70s, has seemingly lost his Midas touch at West German club Bayer Leverkusen and says he will retire at the end of the season.

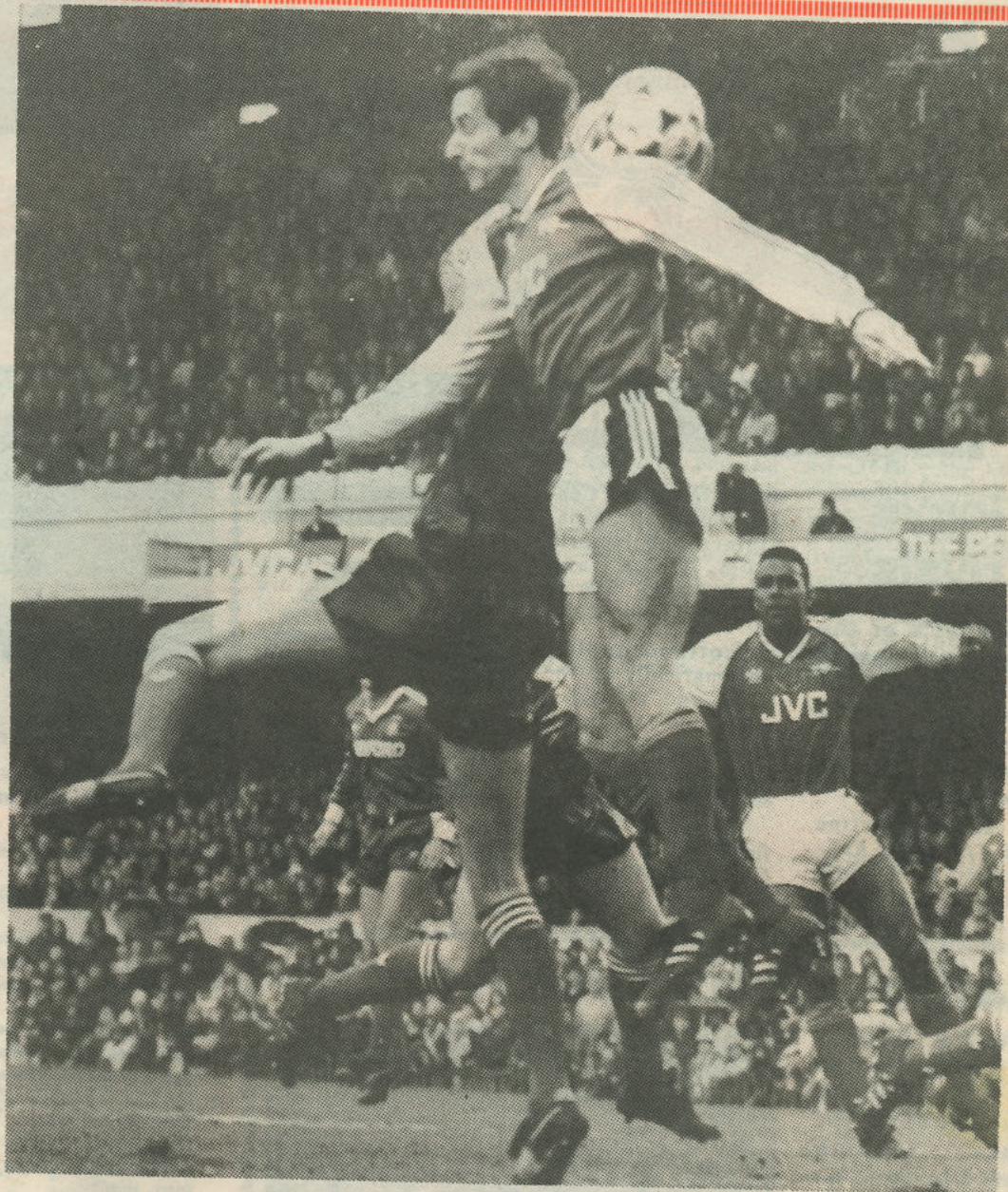
OVERSEAS OVERVIEW

BY LOU GAUTIER

- Banned from international competition for four years because of forged birth certificates at last year's Youth World Cup qualifiers, Mexico will return to the international scene when it attempts to qualify for the 1992 Olympics.
- Napoli's Fernando De Napoli had to miss last week's UEFA Cup quarter-final against Juventus because of a three-match suspension handed out by the UEFA for his behaviour during the previous round's tie with Bordeaux of France.
- Despite Northern Ireland's certain elimination from the World Cup finals, coach Billy Bingham is to retain his post for at least another four years.
- Bordeaux have sacked their highly respected coach, Aime Jacquet. The club, which is having its worst season in 20 years, has replaced him by Alain Giresse, the brilliant midfielder of the French national team from 1980 to 1986. The 36-year-old will be assisted by another former international, Didier Couecou.
- Scott Letelier, a Californian lawyer who was in charge of Soccer at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, has been chosen to head the USA 1994 World Cup organising committee.
- Manfred Schwabl, FC Nurnberg's 22-year-old West German international midfielder, has been transferred to Bayern Munich.
- Jurgen Klinsmann is out of action from six weeks following an operation on his left ankle. The VfB Stuttgart superstar, who is headed for Spain next season, injured himself in a friendly game against Romania's Steaua Bucharest.



- The New Year's Day match between Manchester United and Liverpool attracted the largest television audience for two years in England. Some 8.1 million viewers watched the live telecast.
- Bobby Lenarduzzi, one of Canada's best all-time players, is the new coach of the national team, following the country's elimination from the 1990 World Cup finals by Guatemala. He replaces Tony Taylor. Lenarduzzi was voted 1988 Canadian Coach of the Year with his club, the Vancouver 86ers.



Arsenal's Alan Smith is robbed of a high ball by the Luton goalkeeper.

Former England winger Laurie Cunningham will be looking to join his ELEVENTH club if current side Rayo Vallecano failed to win promotion to the Spanish First Division at the end of the season.

Since leaving West Brom for Real Madrid in 1979, Cunningham (who began his career at Orient) has been plagued by knee and toe injuries and hounded by the Spanish press for spending too much time in discos.

After short spells with Gijon, Manchester United, Marseille, Leicester, Charleroi and, last season, Wimbledon — making a Cup Final appearance as a substitute — Cunningham hopes to settle down in Madrid.

He owns an English pub in the city and has married a Spanish girl.

★★★

In spite of paying out \$350,000 to Austria's SK Voest for ALEX SPEER, Aston Villa boss GRAHAM TAYLOR warns it will be a few weeks yet before his giant defender is unleashed on the Football League.

Says Taylor: "Alex is used to being part of a sweeper system and hasn't played since the Austrians started their winter break at the beginning of December. So he won't go straight into my team."

"However, his attitude is first class and there is a lot of potential to work with."

★★★

HOWARD KENDALL will return to Goodison Park on Tuesday, April 4 when he brings his Athletic Bilbao team over to take part in Everton captain KEVIN RATCLIFFE's testimonial.

★★★

UK Scene

Reigning Champions Liverpool and Celtic have tentatively agreed to meet on Tuesday, April 4 for the Dubai Cup. The unofficial British Championship match has already been postponed on two occasions.

★★★

Hibs, of Edinburgh, have been beaten in the race to sign Clyde's highly-rated defender MARTIN CLARK by Nottingham Forest.

The young stopper, signed in a \$200,000 deal, has certainly got the necessary pedigree for a career in the big time. His father, John, is a former Celtic star.

★★★

Chelsea midfield ace Micky Hazard has passed up the chance of a quick return to the First Division by rejecting a \$700,000 move to Newcastle.

The two sides had agreed on a fee for the Sunderland-born schemer.

\$2 BILLION WORLD CUP BOOST

THE Italian cabinet have authorised nearly \$2 billion to be spent on transport, communications and hotels for the 1990 World Cup finals and urged that work start as soon as possible.

The cabinet approved double that amount in July last year but parliament rejected it as excessive.

ITALIA '90
The money will be distributed among the 12 cities that will host the finals which are expected to draw eight million extra tourists in the summer of 1990.

The sum does not include spending on stadiums which will be authorised separately.

